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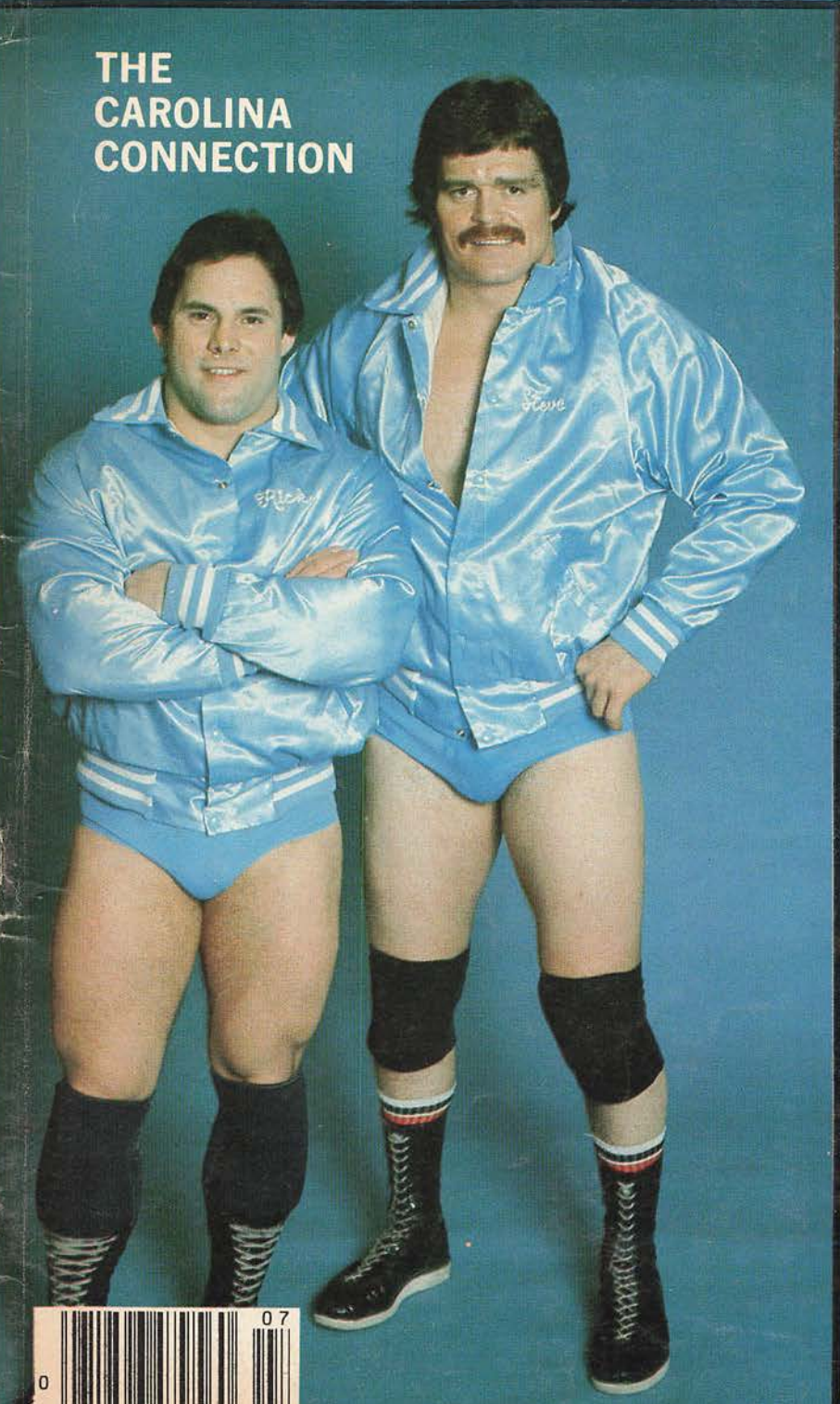

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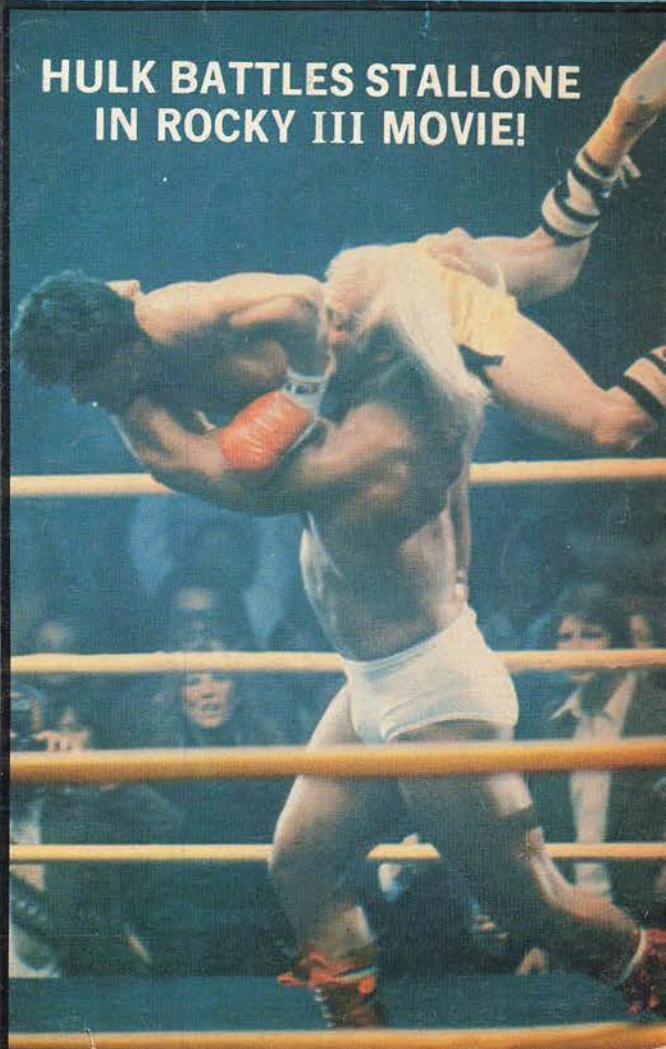

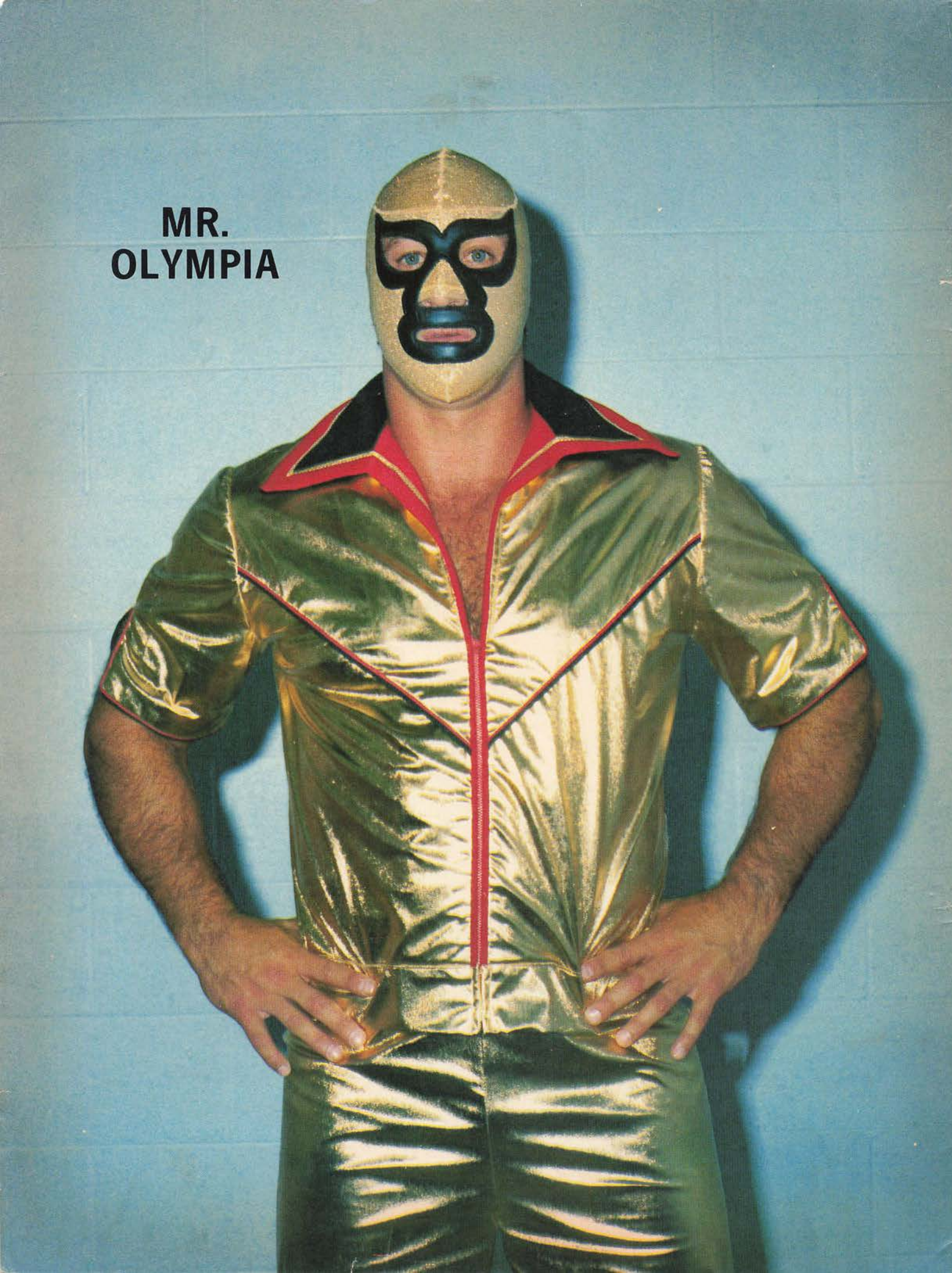
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Wrestling REVUE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF WRESTLING
Wrestling NEWS

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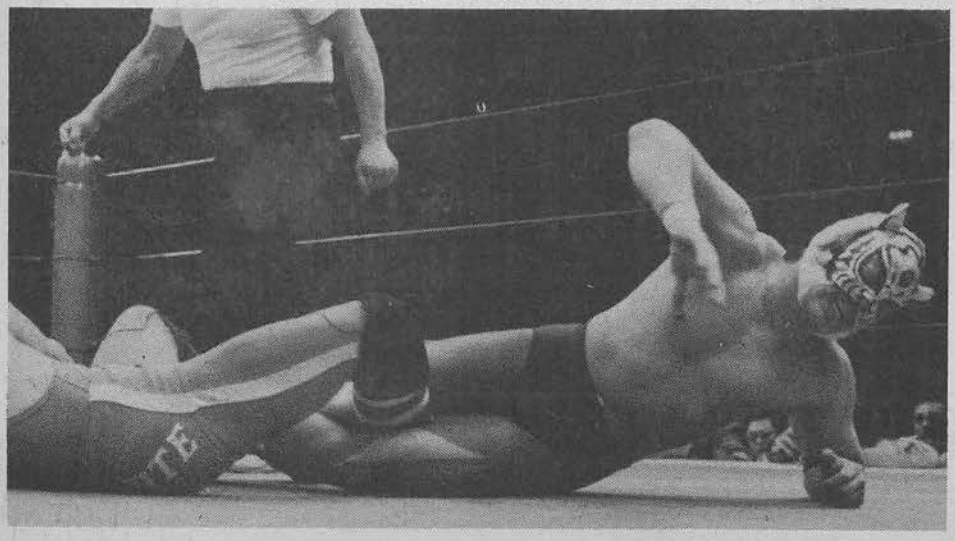

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ON AND AROUND THE MAT WORLD
ARE CLOSE-UPS REPORTS COMPILED BY NORMAN H. KIETZER

Welcome to Area Close-Ups for Issue #85 of The Wrestling News. As many of you long time readers of The Wrestling News will notice, there is something different about the front cover of this issue - namely the words "WRESTLING REVUE." There is a reason for this. For many years it has been our goal to have each monthly issue of The Wrestling News sold on news stands. Our first step toward that goal was when we took control of Ring Wrestling which had a distribution agreement that covered six issues per year, and this enabled us to have six of our twelve monthly issues available on news stands world wide. The process has now been completed by our taking control of another existing magazine - Wrestling Revue, which also has a six issue per year distribution contract. In this way now each issue of The Wrestling News will be available on news stands in the future, with the even numbered issues of The Wrestling News appearing in The Ring's Wrestling Magazine and the odd numbered issues (as this #85 is) appearing in Wrestling Revue.

Those of you who are familiar with the magazine "Wrestling Revue" will understand why I consider that fact that I am again Editor-In-Chief in full control of that title a personal vindication. Wrestling Revue was founded by Champion Sports Publishing Corporation (headed by Mr. Abe Glick) in 1959. In its early years it was sort of a second thought of a corporation that was primarily only interested in publishing a professional boxing magazine. I joined the staff in 1966 as Associate Editor, and in 1970 I was appointed Editor-In-Chief. This was the first time the Wrestling Revue magazine had a full time editor, as up until then this job had been a second duty of the editor of their boxing publication.

In 1959 I first became involved in professional wrestling when I founded Pro Wrestling Enterprises to publish programs for professional wrestling matches and provide free lance material to national publications. I continued my program business when I joined the staff of Wrestling Revue. In 1969 I decided to start my own national magazine, called Wrestling Monthly, and so informed my superiors at Champion Sports. It was then that they offered me the position of Editor-In-Chief of Wrestling Revue and also asked me to start Wrestling Monthly under their corporation as a second major wrestling magazine. They also offered at the time to buy my own program publishing business, but that arrangement later fell through.

In any case, the 1969 offer from them sounded like a great opportunity, so I moved to New York and went to work. In less than a year I brought Wrestling Revue and Wrestling Magazine up on top as the two largest selling wrestling magazines in the world. Champion Sports allowed me to then bring Jim Melby to New York as my full time assistant and for the next two years we kept the two publications on the top with ever increasing circulation.

However, Champion Sports Corporation had financial problems and as a result in 1972 the two wrestling titles were sold to Quebecor, a major Canadian publishing, printing, and distribution firm.

After tentative talks with the representatives of the new owners in which I made it very clear that I would not wish to be part of any downgrading of the two most successful wrestling magazines in the world, both Jim Melby and I were fired by Quebecor. They turned around and put out the two titles with little knowledge of the sport. They contained many reprints of material from the days when I had edited them, plus what I consider without reservation to be the sleeziest advertisements ever seen in a wrestling publication. Outside of the reprinted material, the content left much to be desired.

So I was left with my wrestling program business and The Wrestling News, which was then an eight page tabloid newspaper published by Pro Wrestling Enterprises. This I expanded into a magazine and for the next eight years unsuccessfully sought to obtain news stand distribution for The Wrestling News. In the meantime, it was distributed at wrestling matches and by mail and wherever possible. In every case where we were able to arrange to be sold next to the news stand magazines, our percentage of sales was much greater than theirs.

In 1979 The Wrestling News finally again reached the news stands when we were able to make an arrangement with The Ring Publishing Corporation to take control of their struggling mat publication - The Ring's Wrestling. In a joint venture, we agreed to allow The Wrestling News issues to be published in The Ring's Wrestling Magazine which they arranged to be distributed to news stands while we retained full ownership of The Wrestling News itself and full editorial control of the new merged publication as well as all rights to subscription and arena distribution. However, as Ring's Wrestling had only a distribution agreement for six issues per year, we were not yet able to put every issue of The Wrestling News on the news stands. Now, with their aquisition of Wrestling Revue, under an identical agreement, we are able to have each and every issue of The Wrestling News sold on the news stands.

We hope these arrangements will continue forever, but as the past has shown, things can change. One thing that we will make sure of as we have for the past decade - The Wrestling News will continue. Pro Wrestling Enterprises, the company I still own completely, has full ownership of The Wrestling News and the subscription and arena distribution of the new merged publication which for the present will be known as The Wrestling News/The Ring's Wrestling Magazine for even issue numbers and The Wrestling News/Wrestling Revue for odd issue numbers. We hope that our news stand distribution will last forever, but in any case we will make certain that The Wrestling News will continue whatever the future might bring.

To close out this introduction to Area Close-Ups in Issue #85, there are a few things which I have said many times before but which remain the same. First of all, The Wrestling News is not the work of one person. James Melby, who I consider to be the foremost professional wrestling journalist, continues to be -- as he has been for many years -- my right hand in all of my professional wrestling ventures. There are many others who deserve some credit, but none who have stood by through thick and thin and given me the full loyalty and reliability that he has. The Wrestling News is in the main the work of both of us -- so credit us for what you like and blame us for what you dislike about the publication.

Now for our trip "On And Around The Mat World" in which I will again attempt to fairly cover the entire world of our great sport. I will give coverage based on what I believe is most newsworthy with my only prejudice being that although I do not consider any claiment to the heavyweight championship to be a genuine World's Champion, I do rank the titles recognized by the A.W.A., the W.W.F., and the N.W.A. to be a step above all others at this time - as I have ranked them for more than a decade.

THE AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

For no other reason than that our offices are located in Minnesota which is the very heart of the A.W.A., we always start off our trip by looking at the core promotions of this organization. The A.W.A. is one of the most successful promotions in the world today. As I write this, the last wrestling card held in the St. Paul Civic Center drew the largest crowd ever to attend any single sporting event in that city. A total of more than 18,000 saw The Incredible Hulk Hogan upend World's Heavyweight Champion Nick Bockwinkel, however the disqualification decision did not allow the title to change hands. This card was a co-promotion of Marty O'Neill (St. Paul promoter) and Wally Karbo (Minneapolis promoter).

While on the subject of top promoters in the core A.W.A. cities, I certainly must mention others who are doing very well. They include Gene Reed in Denver, Colorado; Leo "The Lion" Nomellini in Oakland and Sacramento, California; John Olsen in Salt Lake City, Utah; Dwaine Hoberg in Fargo, North Dakota; Joe Dusek in Omaha, Nebraska; Don Brinton in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; and Dennis Hilgart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In all these cities the excellent A.W.A. wrestling is attracting strong support from the fans.

Nick Bockwinkel, the World's Heavyweight Champion as recognized by the American Wrestling Association, is certainly busy of late with Hulk Hogan. They have met several times. However, don't think for one minute that Hogan is the only top challenger to be turned back in title matches in the core A.W.A. cities. Both Greg Gagne and Tito Santana have also been in the ring with the title on the line. In every case it is Bockwinkel (sometimes with help from his manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan) who has come up with the necessary combination of skill, luck and trickery to hold on to the title.

On the tag team scene, however, Manager Heenan has not been successful. When he signed Ken Patera and "Big Bad" Bobby Duncum some months ago to form his "Black and Blue Express" he said that his combination would become the new World's Tag Team Champions in record time. However, the team known as "The High Flyers" and made up of Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell continue to hold recognition as holders of that title by the A.W.A. And the fact is that Patera & Duncum are not, as yet, ranked as the top

BRAD RHEINGANS CLOBBERS "BIG BAD" BOBBY DUNCUM

challengers - that honor being held by the combination of "Sheik" Jerry Blackwell and Sheik Adnann El Kaissey. In fact, it looks to some that the feud between the "Sheiks" and the "Flyers" will never end while either is able to wrestle. Also in and out of the area for several appearances have been former holders of the tag title Pat Patterson and Ray "The Crippler" Stevens who have reformed their team on several occasions.

Other grapplers who have made appearances in all of thecore cities include Sergeant Jacque Goulet, Baron von Raschke, "Rock & Roll" Buck Zum Hofe, and Brad Rheingans. Although as of late the A.W.A. cards are mainly self contained from this group, there have been recent exceptions. In several opening events on arena cards Buck Zum Hofe has been matched against grapplers who have not regularly appeared on cards throughout the area. In Winnipeg, "Rock & Roll" recently pinned Fred "Puppy Dog" Peloquin in defeat, in Denver he recently upended "Bulldog" Bob Brown, and in Minneapolis he defeated Tom Stone. Herman Schafer also appeared on an arena card in Minneapolis, losing to Brad Rheingans. Jay York made an appearance on an Oakland card. Spike Humber was pinned by Jerry Blackwell in Rockford, Illinois, on an A.W.A. card. And Pat O'Connor was upended by "Big Bad" Bobby Duncum in St. Paul action. So although the talent appearing on recent A.W.A. cards is quite compact, there are many instances of other grapplers making single appearances in one or more A.W.A. arenas.

Also, the top rated A.W.A. television program taped in Minneapolis has featured not only all of the top stars, but also Peloquin, Stone, Schafer, Kenny Jay, Natcho Verrara, Sonny Rogers, Chris Curtis, Tony Leone, and Ricky Hunter in recent weeks.

Lord James Blears, a top official of the A.W.A. (and also of the Pacific Wrestling Federation) has been called on as a special referee as has Leo Nomellini.

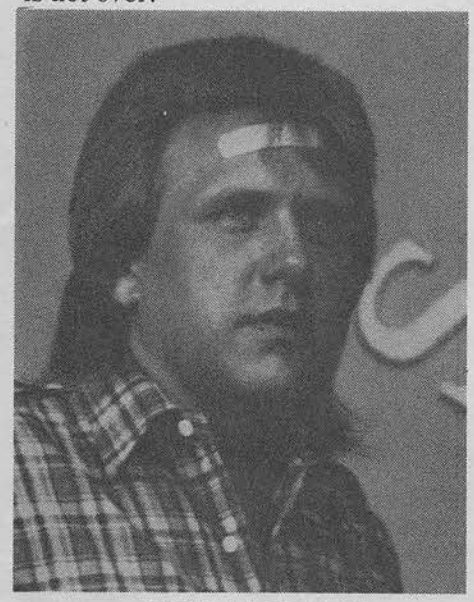
In Chicago, A.W.A. promoter Bob Luce has also made a habit of relying on the core talent of that organization in recent months and has been doing very well as a result. Santana, Goulet, Rheingans, Zum Hofe, Heenan, Patera, Huber, Duncum, and Raschke have all appeared in the windy city recently. In World's Championship matches: Gagne & Brunzell retained their title against The Sheiks when both teams were disqualified; and Bock retained his claim when Hogan was disqualified in their recent match. Also, Doctor "X", who many consider the top masked star in A.W.A. history, recently appeared in Chicago.

Two new stars who are on their way to the core A.W.A. area are Rick Martel, who recently held the W.W.F. tag crown with Tony Garea on the east coast; and Otto Wanz, the great European Heavyweight Champion from Germany, winner of many big tournaments on the other side of the Atlantic in recent years.

Next we will look at the A.W.A. booking offices in Texas. There are two of them in the Lone Star state. The Houston office is headed by Paul Boesch, while the San Antonio office is under the direction of Joe Blanchard.

They share all talent under the Southwest Championship Wrestling banner, so we will do one report on both offices.

A.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion Nick Bockwinkel has been very busy defending his title in Texas during the past month. He recently turned back the challenge of Dick Slater and earlier defeated Tommy "Wildfire" Rich (former N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion) via disqualification. However, Bockwinkel's most persistant challenger of late has been The Junkyard Dog. Although the Dog has been very busy in Mid South Wrestling Association rings (see report on this major league later) he has found time to appear regularly in Houston and the battles between him and Bockwinkel in that city have been classics. So far Nick has escaped with his belt, but this feud is not over.



RICK MORTON

Gino Hernandez and Tully Blanchard continue to be recognized as World's Tag Team Champion by Southwest Championship Wrestling, but things have not been all smooth for them. Since regaining the title from Ken Lucas and Ricky Morton, they have been defeated in a non-title television match and also via disqualification in a title match by the former champions, and they also lost a non-title contest to The Junkyard Dog and Wahoo McDaniel in Houston. So Hernandez and Blanchard are still tag team champions over this region, but their claim is certainly being challenged.

Dick Slater is still the Southwest Area Heavyweight Champion. Among his recent successful title defenses were a disqualification victory over Dick Murdoh in San Antonio and a pin fall win over "Bruiser" Bob Sweetan in Houston.

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I would like to stress that Southwest Championship Wrestling covers a lot more than Houston and San Antonio. This A.W.A. promotion regularly presents cards in many other cities including Beaumont, Odessa, Alice. Laredo, Skidmore, Pearsall, Harlingen, Port Arthur, Eagle Pass, Sequin, Corpus Christi, and Victoria.

Besides the grapplers already mentioned, others who have appeared on A.W.A. cards in Texas during the past month include Scott Casey, Chavo Guerrero, Manny Fernandez, Tito Santana, Tom Jones, Hacksaw Duggan, "Killer" Tim Brooks, Wayne Ferris, Juan Zapata, Terry Gibbs, Frank Monte, El Lobo, El Tejano, Henry Garcia, Ken Wayne, Jim Golden, "Superstar' Billy Graham, Bruiser Brody, El Canek, The Grappler, Ted DiBiase, Mil Mascaras, Jose Guerra, and Granade Boyer.

Next we will take a look at the booking office in Memphis, Tennessee. It is headed by promoters Jerry Jarrett and Buddy Fuller. They hold membership in both the A.W.A. and the N.W.A. and present wrestling in parts of Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio as well as Tennessee.

Jerry Lawler continues to hold the A.W.A. Southern Heavyweight Championship and must be considered "The King" of the region. However, The Dream Machine (under the management of Jimmy Hart) recently captured the area's Mid American Heavyweight Championship from Dutch Mantell. And the team of Bobby Eaton and Sweet Brown Sugar, also under Hart's management, continue to hold the A.W.A. Southern Tag Team Championship. Right now Lawler and Mantell have decided to form a tag team and go after the title.

Other grapplers who have appeared in this area during the past month include Ricky & Robert Gibson, The Midnight Express (Dennis Condry, Randy Rose, and Norvell Austin), The Monk, The Angel, Sonny King, Bill Dundee, Steve Keirn, Stan Lane, Gypsy Joe, Roy Rogers, Danny Yamamoto.

Next we will take a look at the All Japan Pro Wrestling promotion in Japan. This organization holds membership in both the N.W.A. and the A.W.A. and also in the Pacific Wrestling Federation which is headed by Lord James Blears.

First we will take a run down of the championships recognized on A.J.P.W. cards. Shohei "Giant" Baba continues to hold the Pacific Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Championship. Dory Funk Jr. successfully defended the P.W.F. International Heavyweight Championship against Ted DiBiase, but then he was upended and lost that title in Osaka to Bruiser Brody. Tomi "Jumbo" Tsuruta continues to hold the United National Heavyweight Championship, recently successfully defending it against the challenge of former N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion Harley Race.

The P.W.F. International Junior Heavyweight Championship is held by Atsushi Onita, who has not appeared in his native Japan recently. Mr. Onita has been active in Mexico where he lsot and then regained his title in matches against Thungure Chikano.

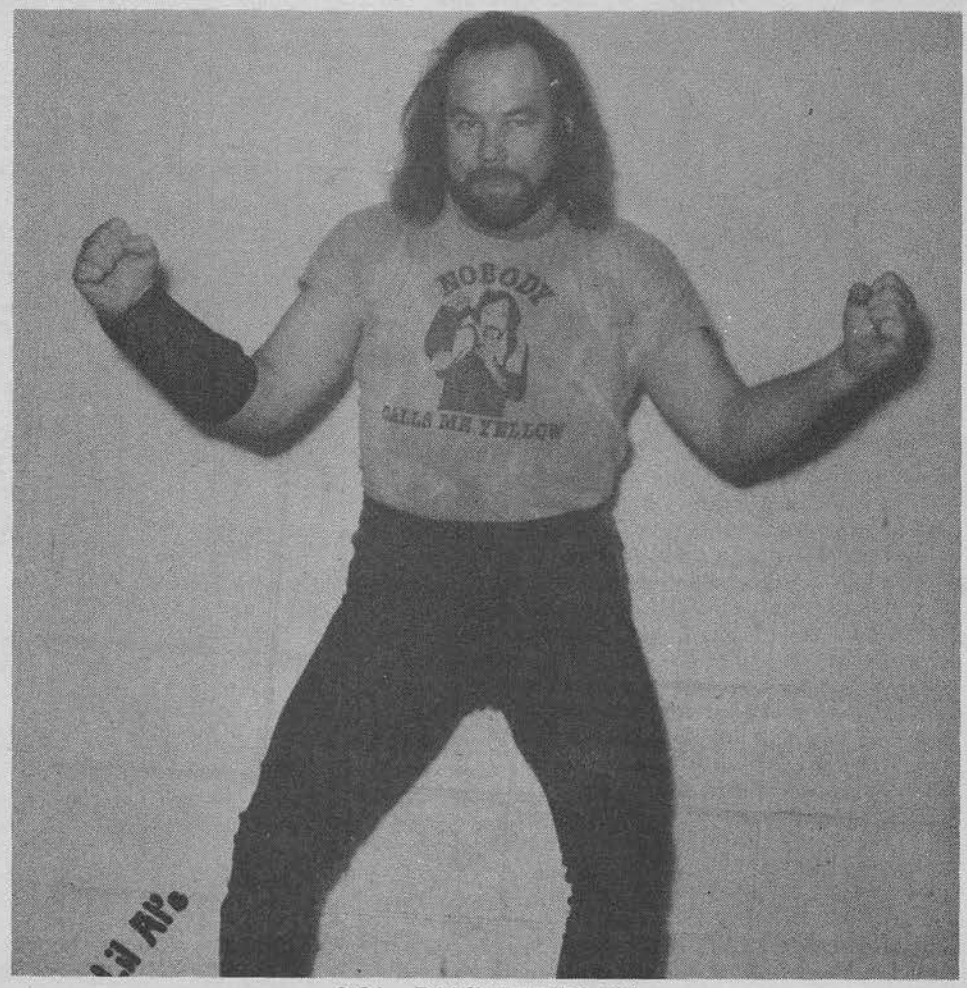
On the tag team scene, "Giant" Baba and "Jumbo" Tsuruta continue to hold the P.W.F. International Tag Team Championship. They recently turned back a potent challenge from Bruiser Brody and Stan Hansen. The Asis Tag Team Championship continues to be held by the team of Akio Sato and Takashi Ishikawa. Among the teams they have turned back in recent months are: Rocky Hata & Shiro Koshinaka, Motoshi Okuma & The Great Kojika, The Mighty Inoue & Koshinaka, Inoue & Sugawara, and Hata & Fuyuki.

We have mentioned most of the Japanese stars who regularly appear on these promotions in our run down of the titles above. Also included should be Prince Tonga, Ashura Hara, Mr. Hayashi, and Tenryu.

The promotions of the A.J.P.W. are divided up into tournaments called series. As we write this report, the most recently concluded series was the 7th annual Championship Carnival. The co-winners were "Giant" Baba and Bruiser Brody. Others imported to Japan for the competition included Ted DiBiase, Bill Howard, Billy Robinson, Alexia Smirnoff, The Mongolian Stomper, Buck Robley, and Lou Thesz as special referee.

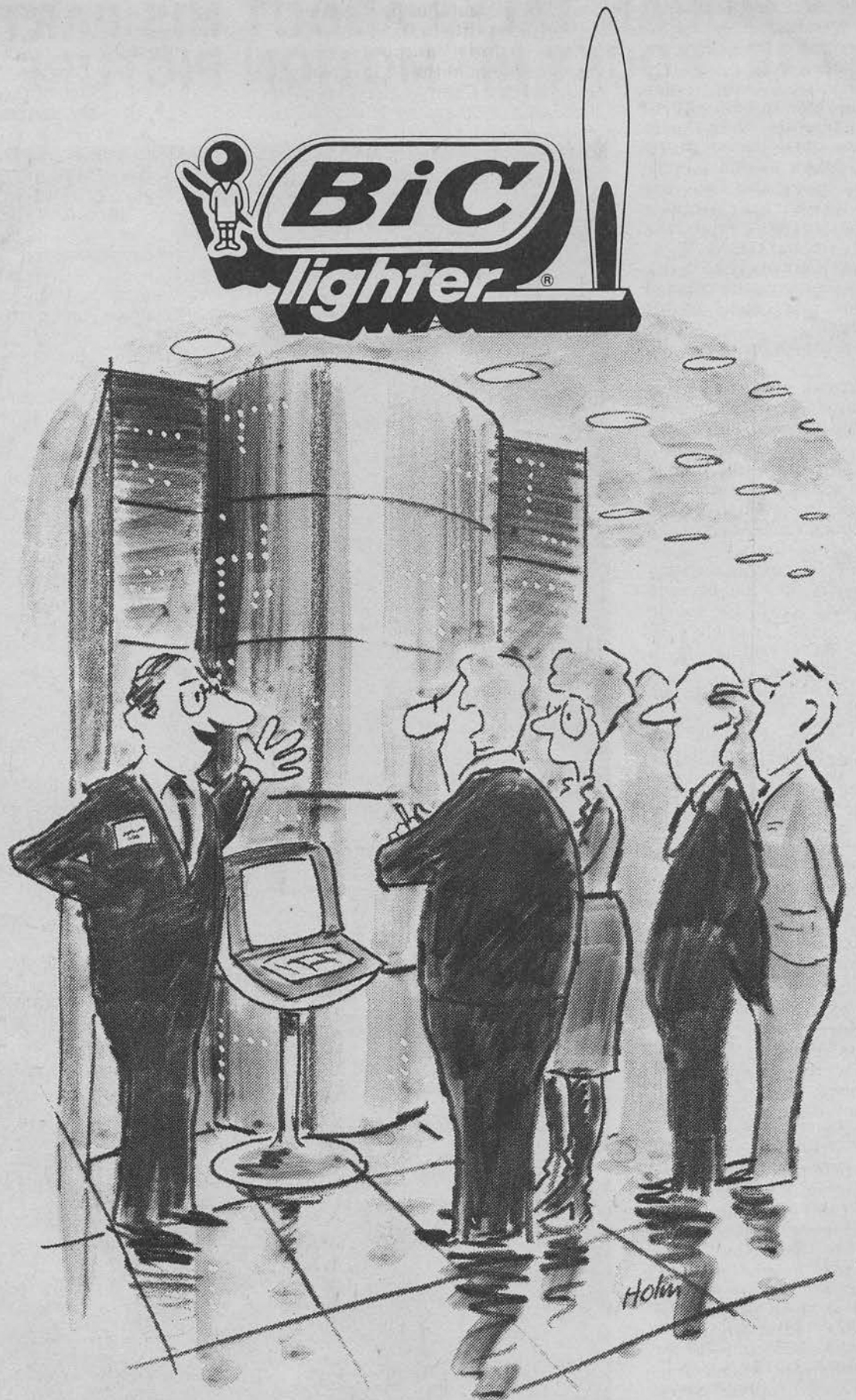
This was followed by the Grand Champion Series which is now in progress. Imported stars for it include Jimmy Snuka, Stan Hansen, Dory Funk, Terry Funk, Buck Robley, Harley Race, Ted DiBiase, Bill Howard, The Mongolian Stomper and Thesz again as referee, although we have just received reports that the veteran Thesz has again entered the ring as a competitor and defeated Koshinaka and Sugawara in separate matches.

Coming up next is the Excite Series which will feature Stan Hansen, Tiger



COL. BUCK ROBLEY

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 48)



"The RT-9000 will do everything but flick your Bic."

HULK HOGAN TALKS ABOUT HIS PART IN THE "ROCKY III" MOTION PICTURE

By James C. Melby

I recently had the opportunity to interview The Incredible Hulk Hogan about his recent participation in the MGM/United Artists motion picture "Rocky III." Despite the fact that Hogan was preparing himself mentally to step into the St. Paul Civic Center ring to battle A.W.A. Heavyweight Champion Nick Bockwinkel, he seemed quite relaxed as he discussed this aspect of his illustrious career.

How were you chosen for the part in "Rocky III?"

Hogan: About two years ago I was wrestling for the W.W.F., I went over to Japan for some matches, and when I returned to New York there was a phone message from the movie people. At first I just thought it was some kind of joke. But when they tried contacting me once more, I returned the call and learned that they were seriously considering casting me for a major part. Basicly they had become interested in using me in the movie after watching me on the cable T.V. wrestling matches that originate from Madison Square Garden.

Can you tell us a little bit about your actual part in the movie?

Hogan: I play the part of The World's Heavyweight Wrestling Champion, Thunderlips. My character is the ultimate male, the supreme athlete. In many my role is very similar to what I actually am in professional wrestling, only of course they added some Hollywood glamor. The basic theme of the movie is that Rocky (Sylvester Stallone) fights a wrestler (me) in a mixed match.

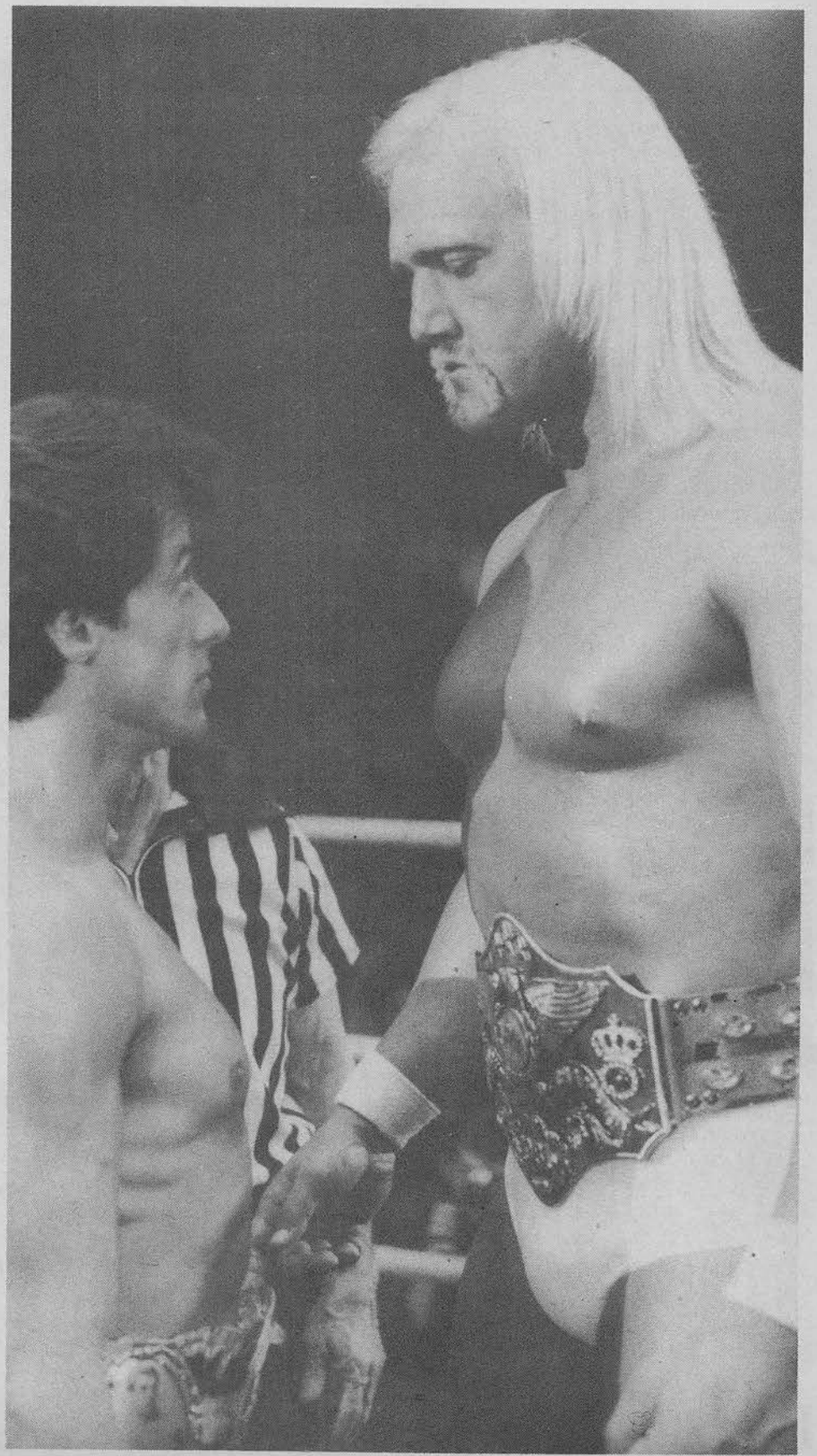
What are your personal opinions of working with Mr. Stallone?

Hogan: He treated me very well. He was a professional from the word go, and a real pleasure to work with.

Being a professional athlete, did you find it different working with a movie camera and crew, as opposed to wrestling in front of a live crowd?

Hogan: First of all I felt very at ease filming in the ring, that was my natural enviorment not theirs. I'm very used to filming T.V. interviews for wrestling, so I also felt comfortable working for a camera, director, etc. There seemed to be a lot more pressure on the movie people, everything went very smooth for me.

How do you feel about people who aren't wrestlers, challenging a professional, such as what recently happened in Memphis between comic Andy Kaufman and grappler Jerry "The King" Lawler?



Hogan: Well, that seems to happen to one of us just about everyday. There is always someone in a crowd who thinks he can beat a pro. Someone is always wanting to grab a hold of you and see how strong you really are. Of course that is silly, I really don't pay much attention to that. Jerry Lawler is no big deal, and Andy Kaufman certainly would be nothing to worry about, that was proven.

What would happen in a real match if you were to fight a good heavyweight boxer in a mixed match?

Hogan: Basicly as a wrestler I would work on a boxer's body, I would go for his center of gravity. I don't think there is a boxer around who could knock me out with a punch with a glove on. I certainly wouldn't stand still to try and let him clobber me. Of course if I had to fight a boxer under boxing rules, and with gloves on, that would be a different story. Basicly though a wrestler can always defeat a boxer by taking them off their feet, so that they can't swing effectively.

Would you take on such a match if one was offered?

Hogan: Yes, I would like to try one. I would concentrate on hooking a boxer and taking him down, I'm sure I would do very well.

Would you be interested in making anymore motion pictures?

Hogan: I was offered a part in another movie, but decided against it. It was basicly a straight bodyguard type part. It was going to be put on by Kingpin productions, who I hadn't really heard of. I didn't think they could make it worth my while to take off from wrestling for four weeks, so I passed it up.

Was taking part in a big movie worth it to you financially?

Hogan: In the case of "Rocky III" it was. This helped to broaden my horizons. The more credentials you have, the more you can ask for when it comes to bargaining and signing contracts. Just the fact that I have been in a major motion picture now, certainly puts a different trademark on me and my drawing power. It is just like wrestling, you have to get a foot in the door someplace, and build yourself up towards the top.

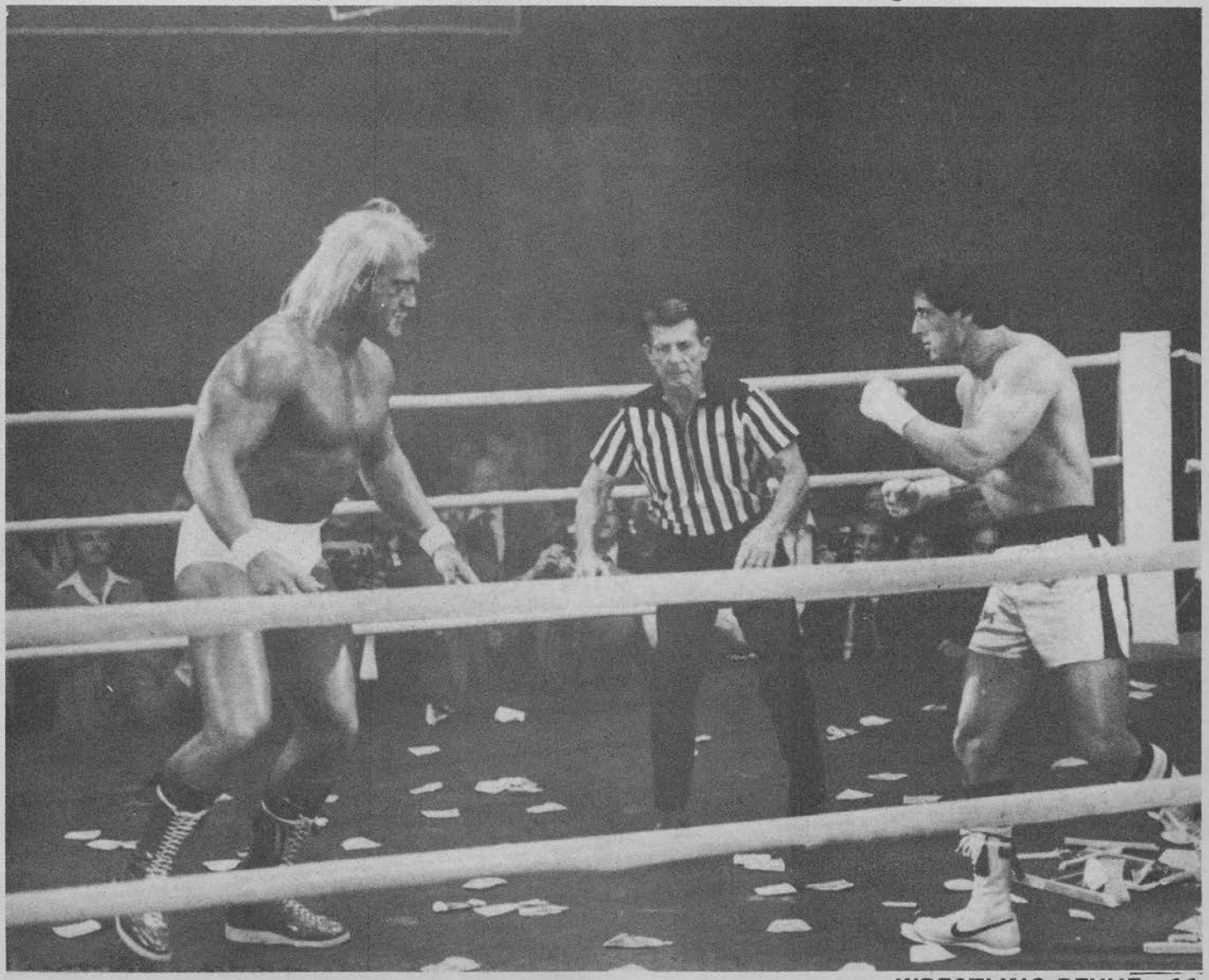
What type of movies would you like to make?

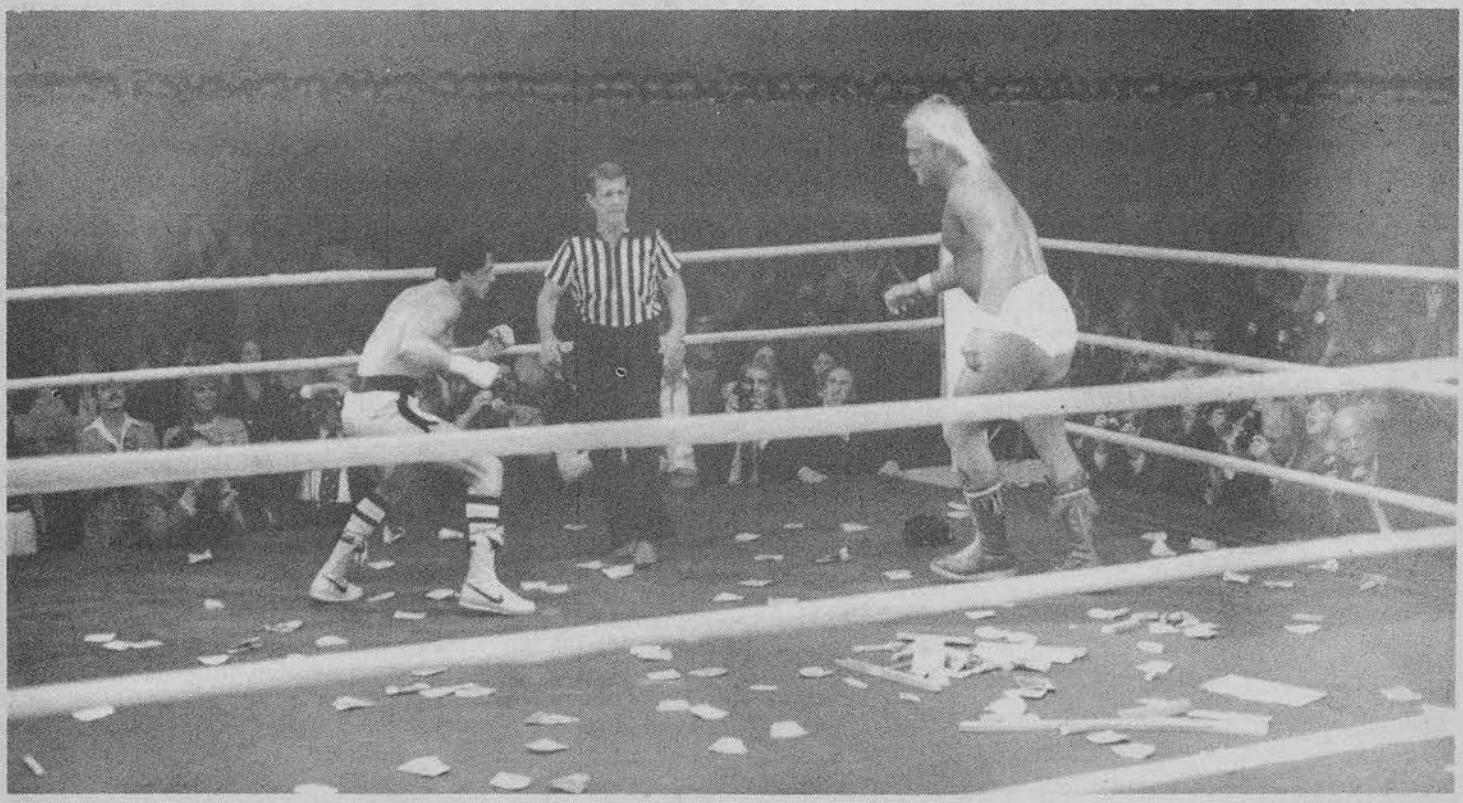
Hogan: It really doesn't matter. If the part is one that pays well, and is good, I would be interested.

Did Hollywood impress you?

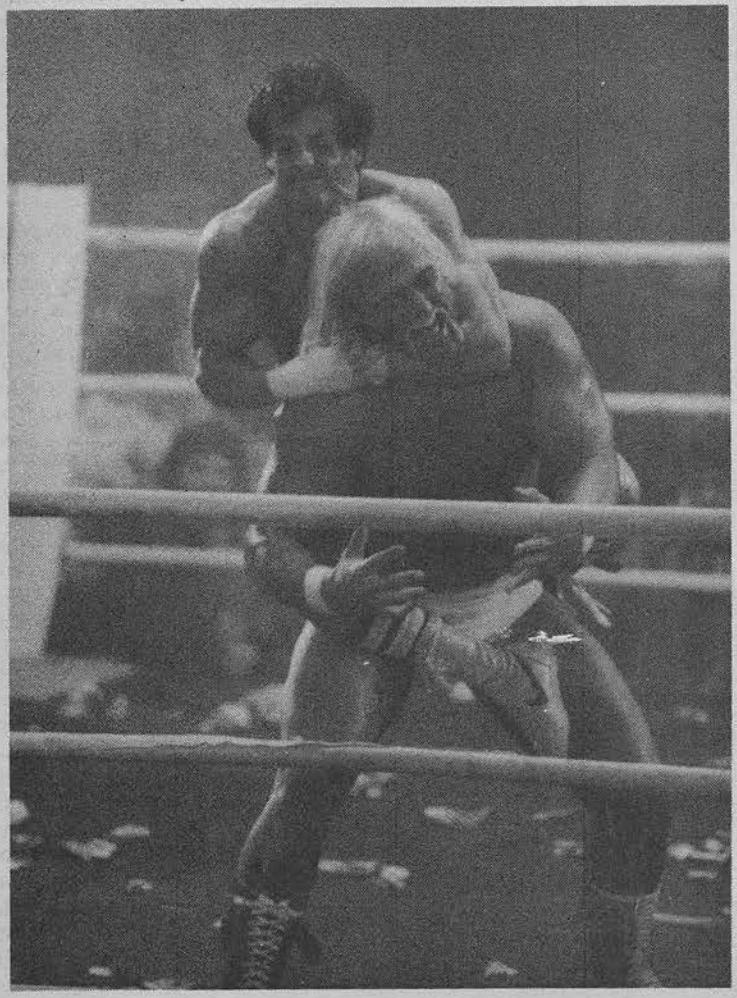
Hogan: Not really, it was a lot of hard work, you have to put in long hours when they are doing the actual filming. I didn't really socialize with anyone. When I had free time I worked out, and wrestled some matches on the West Coast.

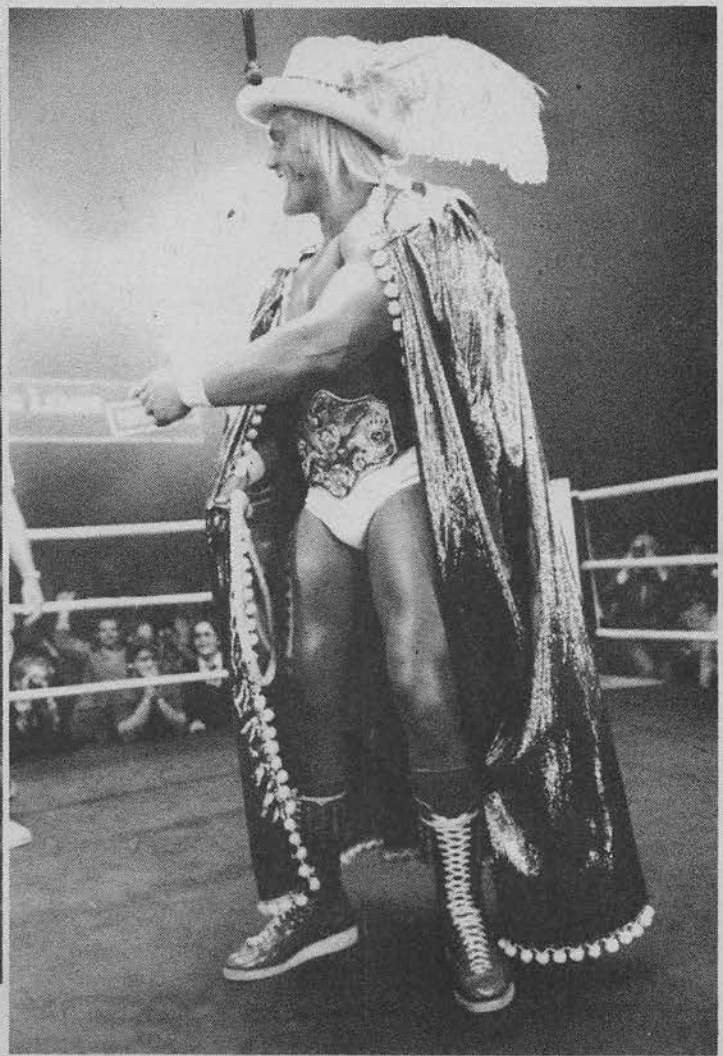
It appears that "Rocky III" is going to be the smash movie of the summer, and if Hulk Hogan can learn to control his temper he may just become the heavyweight wrestling champion of the world. I know A.W.A. kingpin Nick Bockwinkel would be overjoyed if Hulk hung up his wrestling tights for good and devoted all of his energies to making movies.





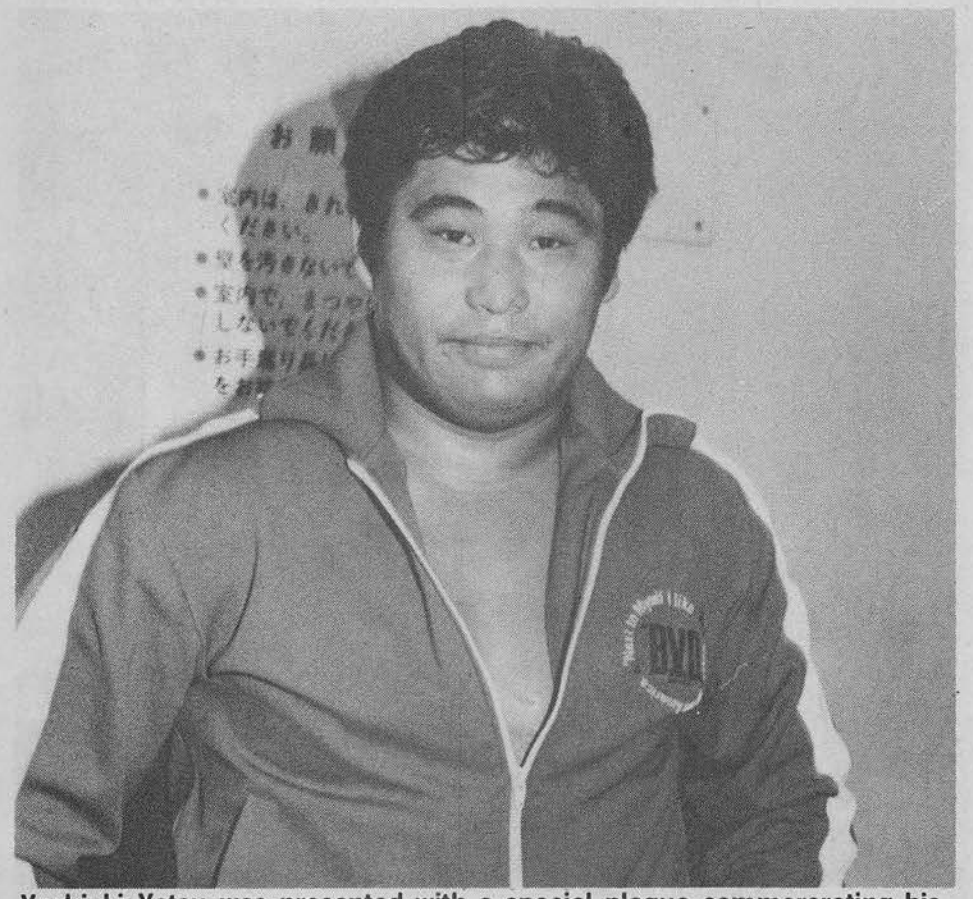
The pictures accompanying this article are from the motion picture "ROCKY III," and are copyright© MGM/UNITED ARTISTS. Special thanks to Mr. Ian Abrams for his cooperation and aid on these materials.





THE GREAT YATSU - VOTED W.W.F. WRESTLING NEWS® ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

By George Napolitano



Yoshiaki Yatsu was presented with a special plaque commerorating his winning of THE WRESTLING NEWS® W.W.F. Rookie Of The Year honors.

During 1981 the WWF was fortunate enough to have quite a few outstanding rookie wrestlers make their initial debut on the east coast. Out of all the rookies who appeared in the WWF area the Great Yoshiaki Yatsu from Tokyo, Japan was by far the best of these young grapplers. For his outstanding achievement in his first year in the sport the Great Yatsu was awarded a plaque commemorating his success in 1981 by this reporter in Tokyo, Japan.

The Great Yatsu started his professional career on the east coast in the WWF area after an outstanding amateur career in Tokyo, Japan. Yatsu was the leading amateur wrestler in his country and would have represented Japan in the 1980 Olympics in Russia, had Japan participated.

Having been schooled in the amateur form of combat Yatsu had to re-adjust his style and thinking inside that ring to make it in the professional ranks, and Yatsu learned his lessons well! After arriving in the states, Yatsu worked out deligently in the gym every day refining his skills and talents, while by night Yatsu could be found intently studying the matches looking for pointers and moves that he could use in the ring.

Finally, after six weeks in the States, Yatsu had his first professional match and the Japanese star made the best of it. Although Yatsu was the best amateur in his homeland, he still had a lot to learn about the American style of professional wrestling. It took some time but eventually Yatsu began to show flashes of brilliance. The more he wrestled, the more Yatsu improved. In between bouts, the Japanese star worked out whenever he could with WWF champion Bob Backlund as well as Tony Garea, Ric Martel, and Rick McGraw. The progress that the Great Yatsu made from the cold winter months when he first arrived on the east coast through the spring, summer and fall was unbelievable! One has to remember that besides learning the sport Yatsu had to contend with being a stranger in a foreign country, unfamiliar with language, customs, and mannerisms of the people. But the Great Yatsu overcame these obstacles and succeeded in this sport besides. It is for this reason that the Great Yatsu has been voted the "1981 WWF Rookie of the Year."

THE WRESTLING NEWS® INTERVIEWS THE CAROLINA CONNECTION(McGRAW & TRAVIS)

By Joe & Ron Cunliffe

Wrestling News: This interview, with your permission fellas, is an update of a recent interview with you Steve (Issue 80). Since you and your partner have decided to form the "Carolina Connection", I'd like to get your opinion of the remark that Steve made, when he stated there was a fierce rivalry between you and Steve going back to high school.

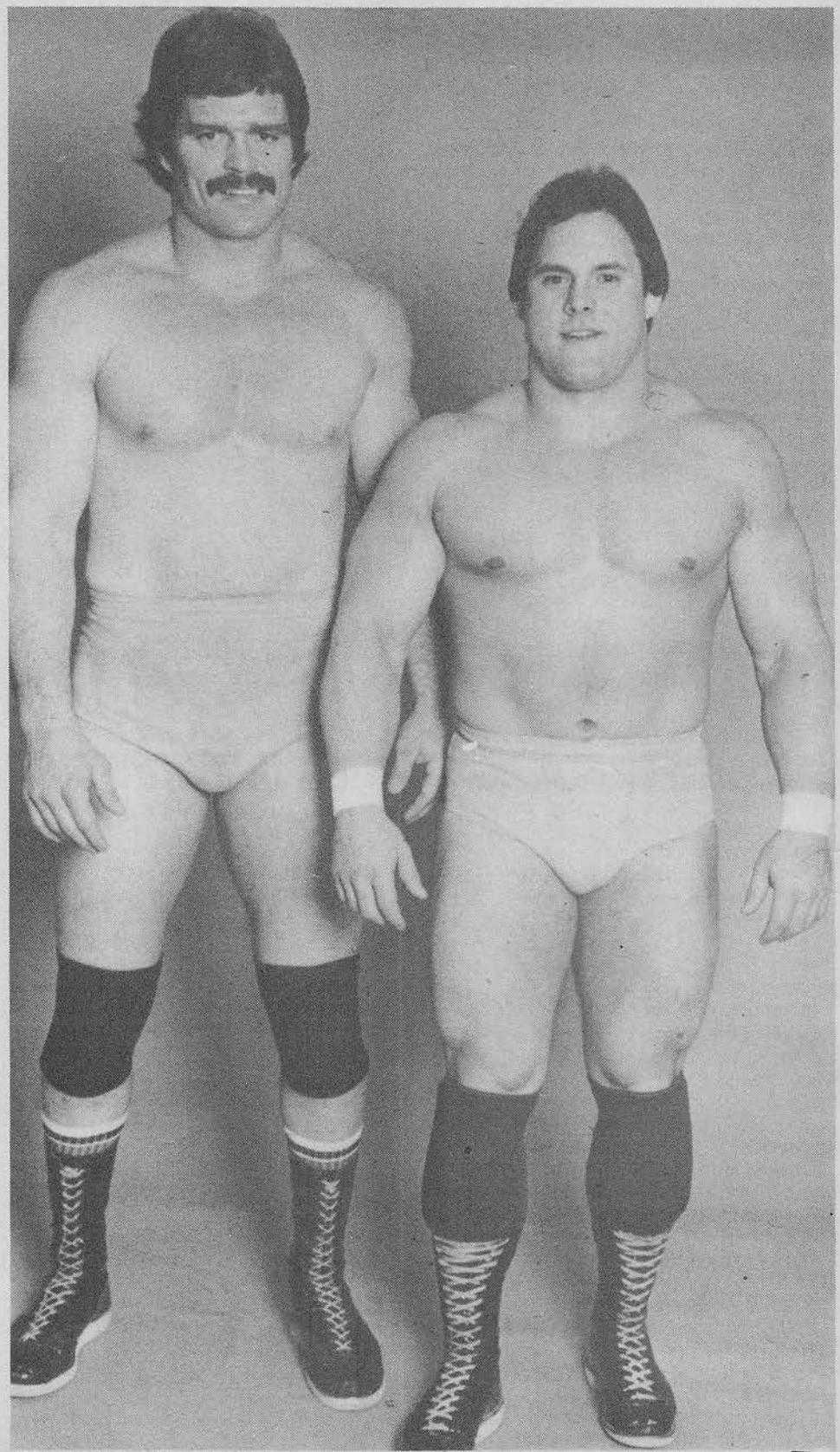
Rick McGraw: Well, I agree with Steve on the rivalry in football, as were very competive both in our rival high schools, and also college. Steve went to Guilford College and I went to Elan, which are twenty miles apart. He was a defensive lineman and I was an offensive back. Our schools were big rivals, and we tore into each other all day. We both broke into wrestling about the same time in 1975. But I really don't feel the rivalry in wrestling, just a small touch of competition.

WN: Rick, Steve feels that your style is akin to his, that he respects you more than any other person he knows for your comeback ability, and also feels you are one of the strongest, quickest and agile men in the game. How does it feel to have a man like Steve Travis, a former Rookie of the Year, have this feeling for you?

RMG: It is a really warm feeling to have Steve feel this way.I give up a little body weight to him, but other than that our styles are very similar. Remember we have similar backgrounds, we both come from the Carolinas, which is an area known for its heat and humidity. We both spent many grueling afternoons on the field practicing, and also in the wrestling room, which kind of gives us a different type of conditioning than other partners. We share common hobbies and interests, and train together. We could be compared as basically similar, although we are both individuals with our own uniqueness. We go over our matches move by move on the way home in the car, or in the hotel room, and we correct each other's mistakes.

WM: What about the "Japanese Connection"?

RMG: Well, we're an interesting contrast, as they have a martial arts background which we do not have. A match versus Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito should be very exciting. We're after their gold, that's what we have over them, a lust for the victory, not a fear or apprehension of a dethroning.



The popular Carolina Connection is comprised of Steve Travis(left), and Rick "Quickdraw" McGraw.

WN: How does it feel to be back in the ring after experiencing an injury that almost altered your life permanently?

RMG: Well, it feels great, although I feel like a marked man, because everyone concentrates on my neck more than previously. From the recovery process being so tough, I've developed a more aggressive attitude. I see so many people who would give everything to be able to walk one step or touch someone, people who have babies and children who envy a simple footstep, that my only having a nagging neck pain makes me appreciate life so much more.

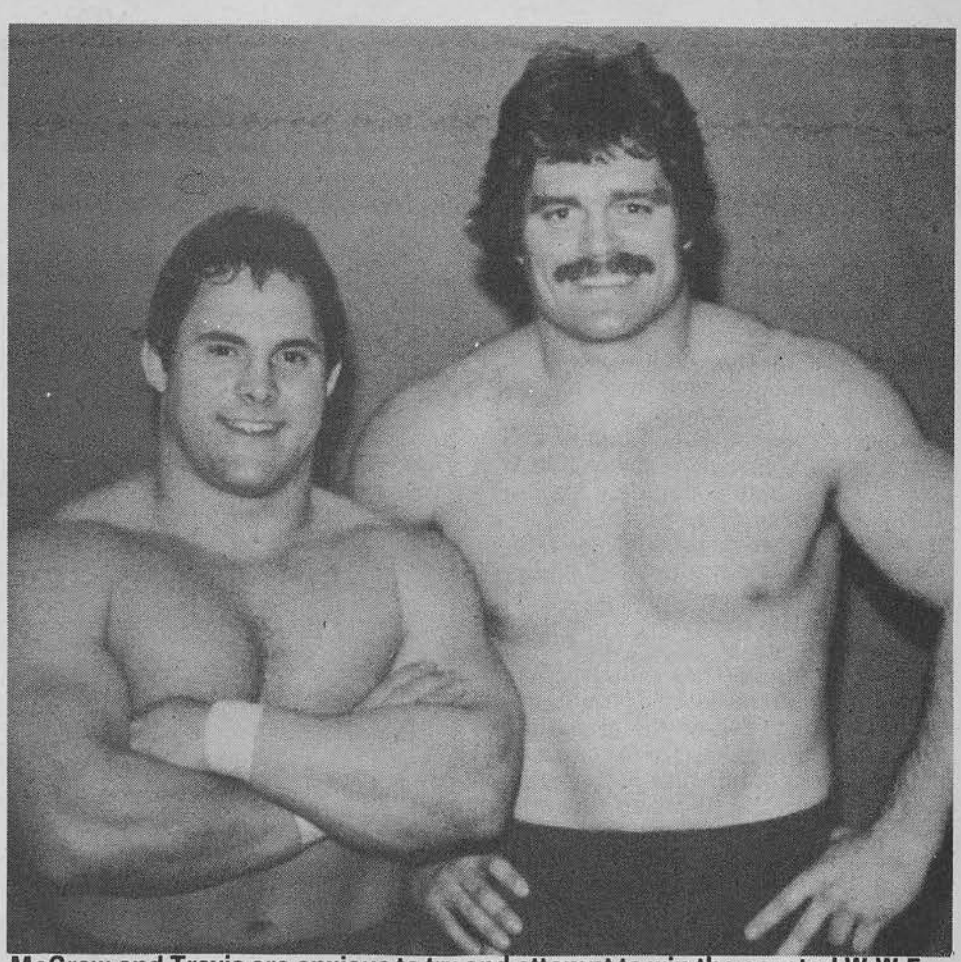
Steve Travis: I find that we have to be more protective of Rick's neck than we normally would, but this should show our rivals that nothing will stop the "Carolina Connection" from competing. We want all opponents anywhere they wish, anytime they're ready for the match of their career. We have an advantage over teams such as the East-West Connection, Jesse Ventura and Adrian Adonis, that being that we are from the same area, scrap the same way, and have the same background. Those guys come from opposite ends of the country, don't have the same background, and don't fight the same.

WN: Would you let a team the likes of Tony Garea and Rick Martel stand in your way to get the gold? If they won the belts back, would you feel apprehensive to get into the ring?

ST: No Way!!! Hey, Tony and Rick are great guys and good friends, but when they have the gold and step into the squared circle with the "Carolina Connection", they're another opponents, no different than the Japs, Moondogs, or anybody. We'll give them the fiercest fight they've had. The gold's what it's about, and we'll stop at nothing to get the belts. I don't feel a promoter would make such a match, but if and when they do, you better bring a lunch.

WN: Did anyone have a hand in forming the team other than you two, and would you consider having a manager to guide you?

ST: Pat Patterson had probably the most to do with influencing us into forming our team. Pat is the ring general of generals, experiencing all aspects of the sport, wrestling in many countries, with a mask, as a rulebreaker and a scientific wrestler, and is the man we respect most in the ring. He saw our individual matches and felt that we were destined to be a team, to be champions. Pat and I talked at length and he knows what a good team is, he is a professional's professional and he suggested we team. Arnold Skaaland got Rick on his feet when he had all but givenup, and as you know, he molds champions, Bruno, Backlund and good ol' boys like them, so we would like to have Arnold as our manager when we are ready.



McGraw and Travis are anxious to try and attempt to win the coveted W.W.F. Tag Team Championship.

WN: Will the "Carolina Connection" venture out of the WWF area in the near future and what are your immediate and long range goals?

RMG: We plan to stay here for a long time, but sure we will travel all over. We would like to travel to Japan for one of their tournaments and also go to other areas to compete and prove ourselves. You asked earlier if we are unbeatable. No team is unbeatable, but we are formidable and to beat us you better have your plans foolproof and your heart in the right place. Our immediate goals are to beat the Japanese and get the W.W.F. belts. Our long range goals are to keep the belts, to have the fans support us and to improve the caliber of the championship.

WN: Is Steve the ultimate partner, can you trust him with your life?

RMG: Yes, Steve is. I've experienced it already as a team and he was there 100% when the time came, and he knows he'll get the same from me.

WN: Do you have any words of caution or advice for your future adversaries?

ST: Yes. We do not and will not take anyone lightly, and we are the team to beat. Anyone who gets in the ring with us is in for one heck of a scrap. The Yankees in the Civil War called the North Carolinians "Tarheels" because they were so hard to beat. They just wouldn't go down, like they had tar on their feet and that's the way it is with us. You are gonna find putting us off our feet tough.

WN: If Steve Travis or Rick McGraw gets injured in the course of battle, will the "Carolina Connection" go on with a replacement?

RMG: No. The Carolina Connection is Steve Travis and Rick McGraw and if one of us can't wrestle, we go into hold for awhile. No artificial preservatives or ingredients, just the real thing.

ST: The "Carolina Connection" is for REAL, man, and we're here!

WN: Indeed you are and we feel in a short time we will do another interview with the future WWF Tag Team Champs the "Carolina Connection". We wish you the best and good luck.

RMG: Thanks for letting us get in touch with the fans, and we hope they come and support us, and read the Wrestling News magazine, two great teams.

THE ASSASSIN RETURNS TO THE MID SOUTH - STARTS VENDETTA WITH BIG ERNIE LADD

By James C. Melby

The Assassin, one of the most controversial wrestlers to ever appear in the rings of The Mid South Wrestling Association, recently returned upon the request of Ernie "The Cat" Ladd.

Ladd had a short time ago been doublecrossed by The Samoans, a tag team he had been managing. They dumped Ernie as a manager, and along with General Scandor Akbar and The One Man Gang, they injured Ladd in an ambush seen on T.V. Ladd in fact required knee surgery after The One Man Gang jumped off the top rope on his knees while he was held helpless by The Samoans.

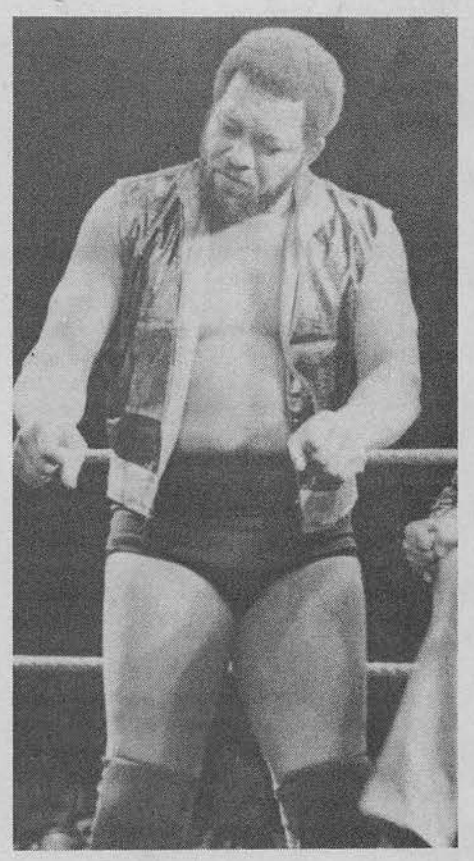
Ernie was forced to take time off of wrestling and have the knee operation. He recovered and plotted to gain his revenge. One week on the Mid South T.V. wrestling program Akbar and The Samoans jumped him during an interview, but The Assassin appeared to even up the score. Ernie announced that the masked man was his secret ace in the hole.

The next week Ladd and The Assassin were to face The Samoans on T.V. in a tag team match. But at the last moment The Assassin pulled out of the match, announcing that Akbar had paid him a greater sum of money not to go through with that particular bout. In fact the masked wrestler boasted about this bit of treachery and told Ernie that he was a fool to trust him, that money was all that mattered to The Assassin.

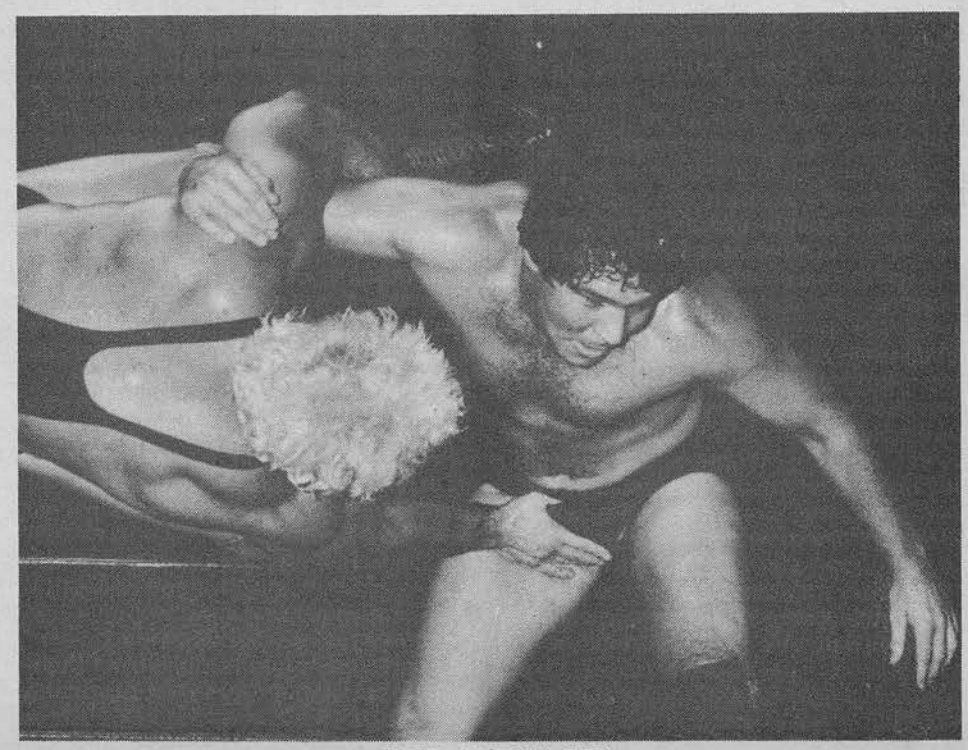
Ernie asked for a minute to get a new partner, and returned quickly with Iron Mike Sharpe. They did wrestle The Samoans, and the bout was a wild brawl with both teams being disqualified for their wild tactics.

But not all is settled between The Assassin and Ladd. Just recently Ernie and Sharpe faced The Assassin and The One Man Gang in another important T.V. tag team duel. Surprisingly enough when The Assassin and his cohort started to double-team Ladd and Sharpe, it was Ted DiBiase who entered the fray on their behalf. There is no love lost between Ted and Ernie, but DiBiase was also injured at the hands of Akbar's One Man Gang, and it seems that he couldn't just sit by as guest commentator and see another wrestler injured. It looks like Akbar and The Assassin may soon find the entire wrestling fraternity out to get them for their treacherous deeds.

THE ASSASSIN



ERNIE LADD



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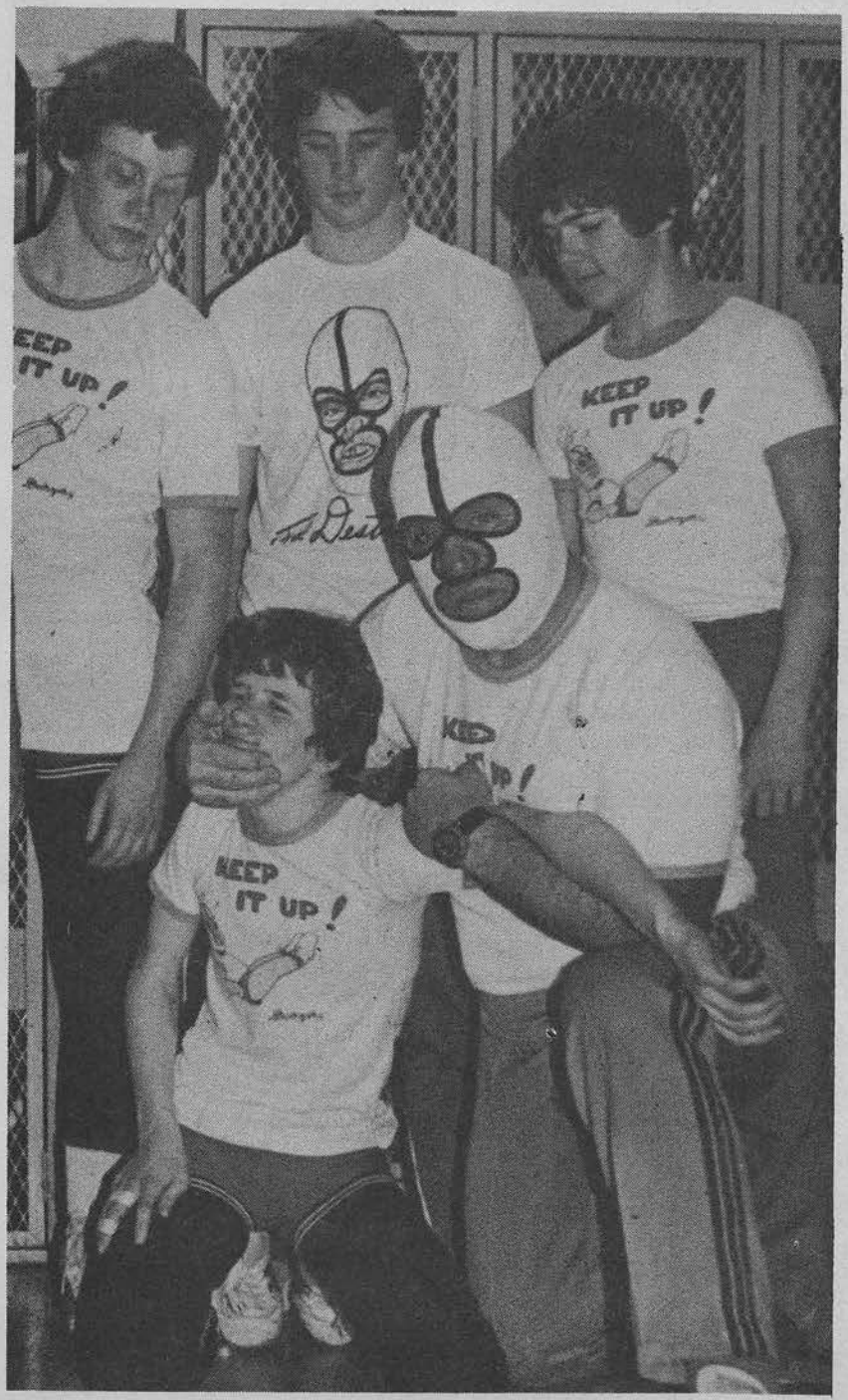

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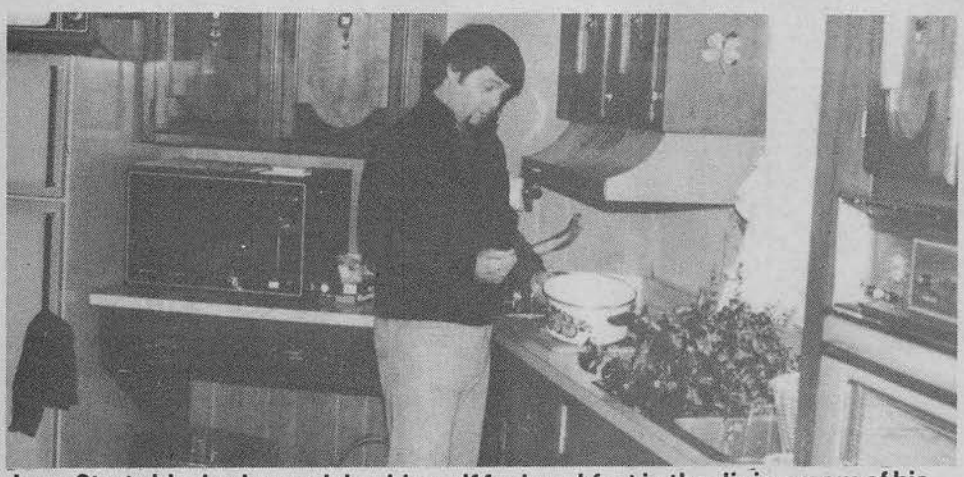
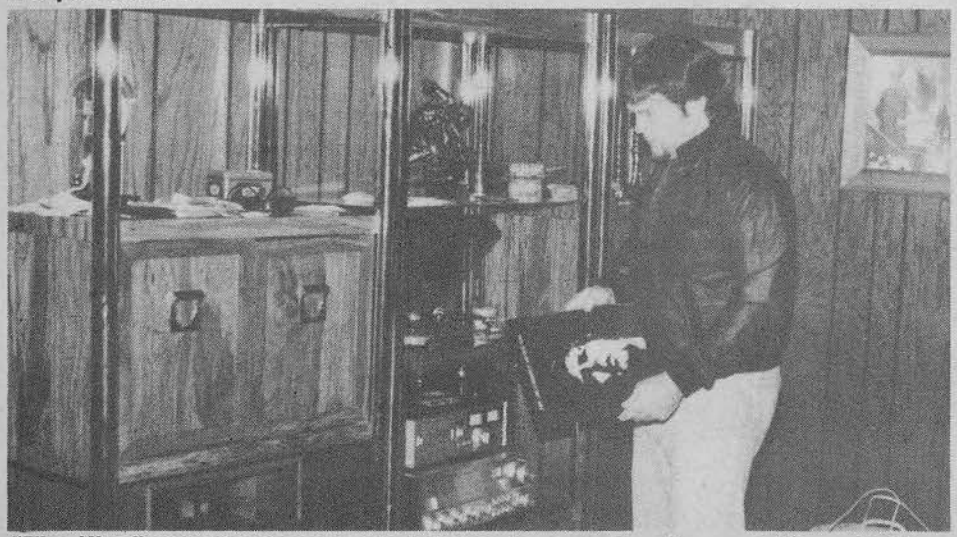
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A KING - Jerry Lawler At Home

Photo Feature By Jim Cornette

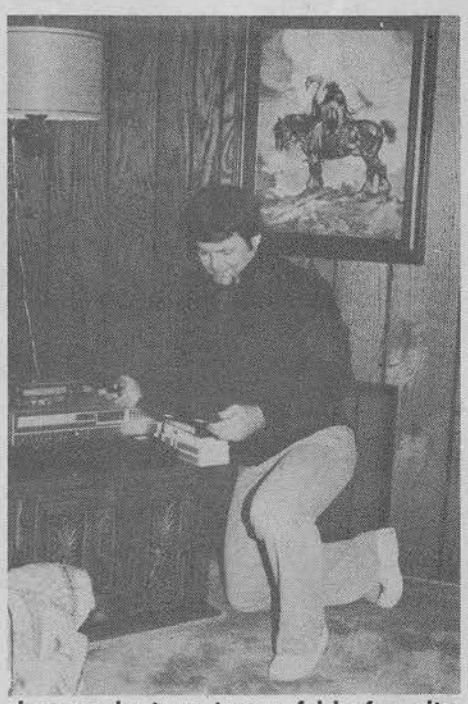


Jerry Starts his day by readying himself for breakfast in the dining room of his beautiful home outside of Nashville, Tenn. Some of the other celebrities who live near Jerry are country music stars Johnny Cash and Bobby Bare.

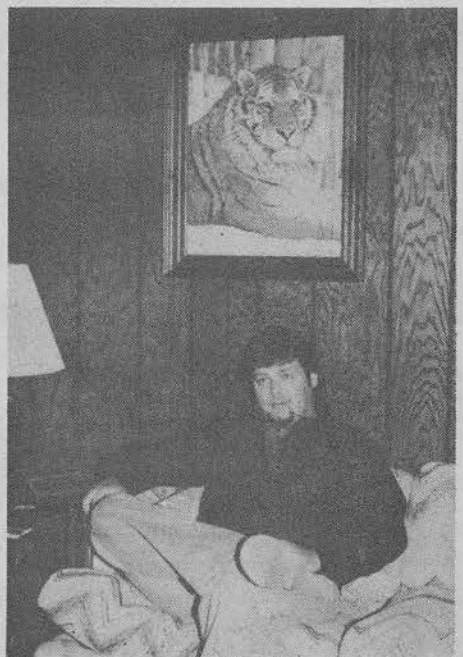
After breakfast Jerry takes care of some personal business. In this case a call from The Associated Wire Service about his recent match with T.V. star Andy Kaufman, which resulted in national headlines, and the comedian's hospitalization.



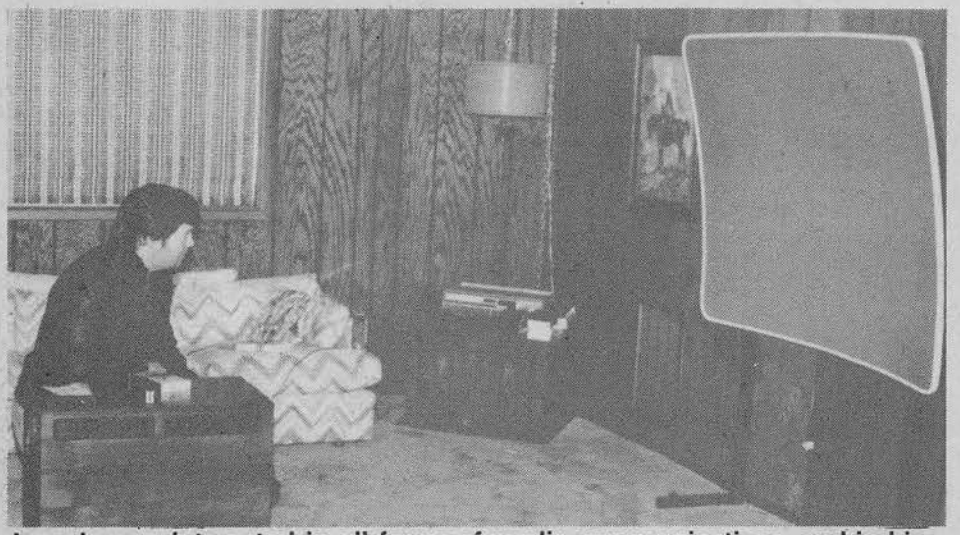
"The King" selects some music to listen to, and who else would the artist be but - Jerry Lawler. His second album has just been released, he has also had four singles out over the last few years.



Jerry selects a tape of his favorite movie, "Airplane," from his extensive video tape collection. Another of his fine artworks is in the background.



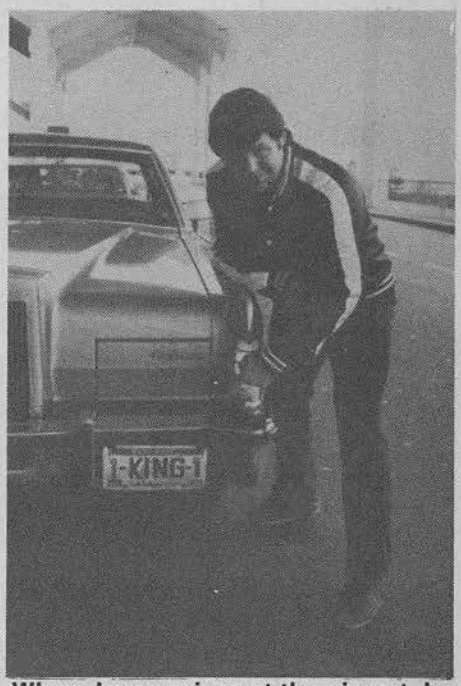
Jerry relaxes on the couch below a framed wildlife drawing that he did himself. Art is one of his favorite hobbies, having gone to Memphis State for two years on a commercial art scholarship. He has an exhibit of his work set for later this summer at a Memphis art gallery.



Jerry is very interested in all forms of media communications, and in his home has a state-of-the-art system of wide screen T.V., video tape machines, and stero systems. In addition at several points in his career, Jerry has hosted his own Memphis radio show.

Before leaving for the airport to fly to Memphis, Jerry attempts to fix lunch, but from the look on his face, it appears his talents don't include cooking.

Before leaving on his flight to Memphis, Jerry checks out the cockpit to make sure everything is in order.



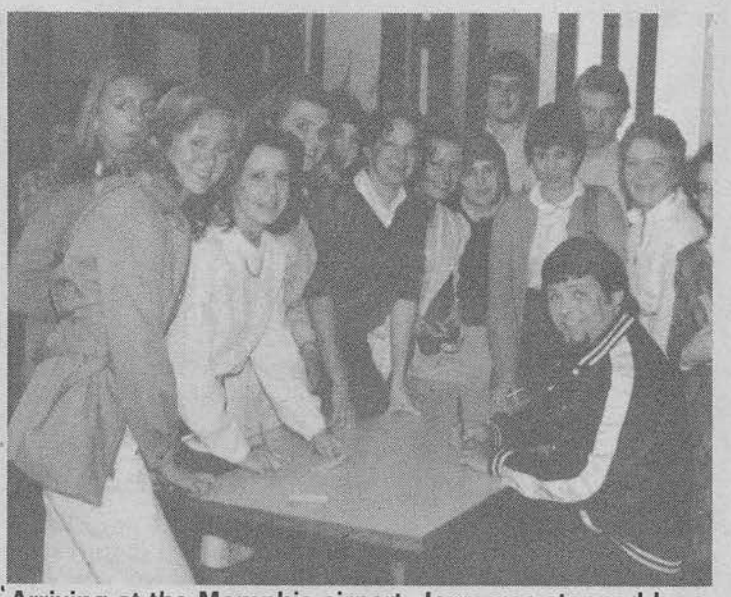
When Jerry arrives at the airport, he leaves no doubt to anyone as to whose Lincoln Continental is parked in the parking lot.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

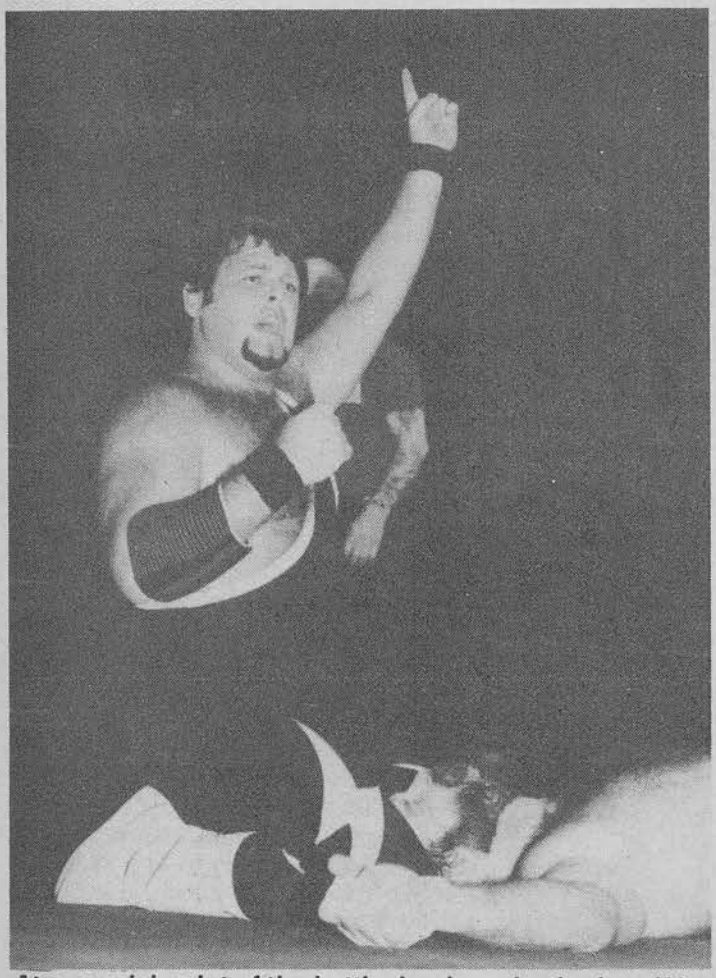
A familiar sight - The King makes one of his grand entrances into the ring in full battle regalia as the "Theme From Rocky II" is played. Lawler is the man who broke Elvis Presley's consecutive sell-out record in the Memphis Mid-South Coliseum, which has also been called "The House That Lawler Built."

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Lawler was interviewed by WMC-T.V. sportscaster Jack Eaton about an upcoming match. "The King" was also featured recently in a segment of NBC's "Today" show about a course in pro wrestling appreciation at a local college, and does quite a few local talk shows in the areas where he wrestles.



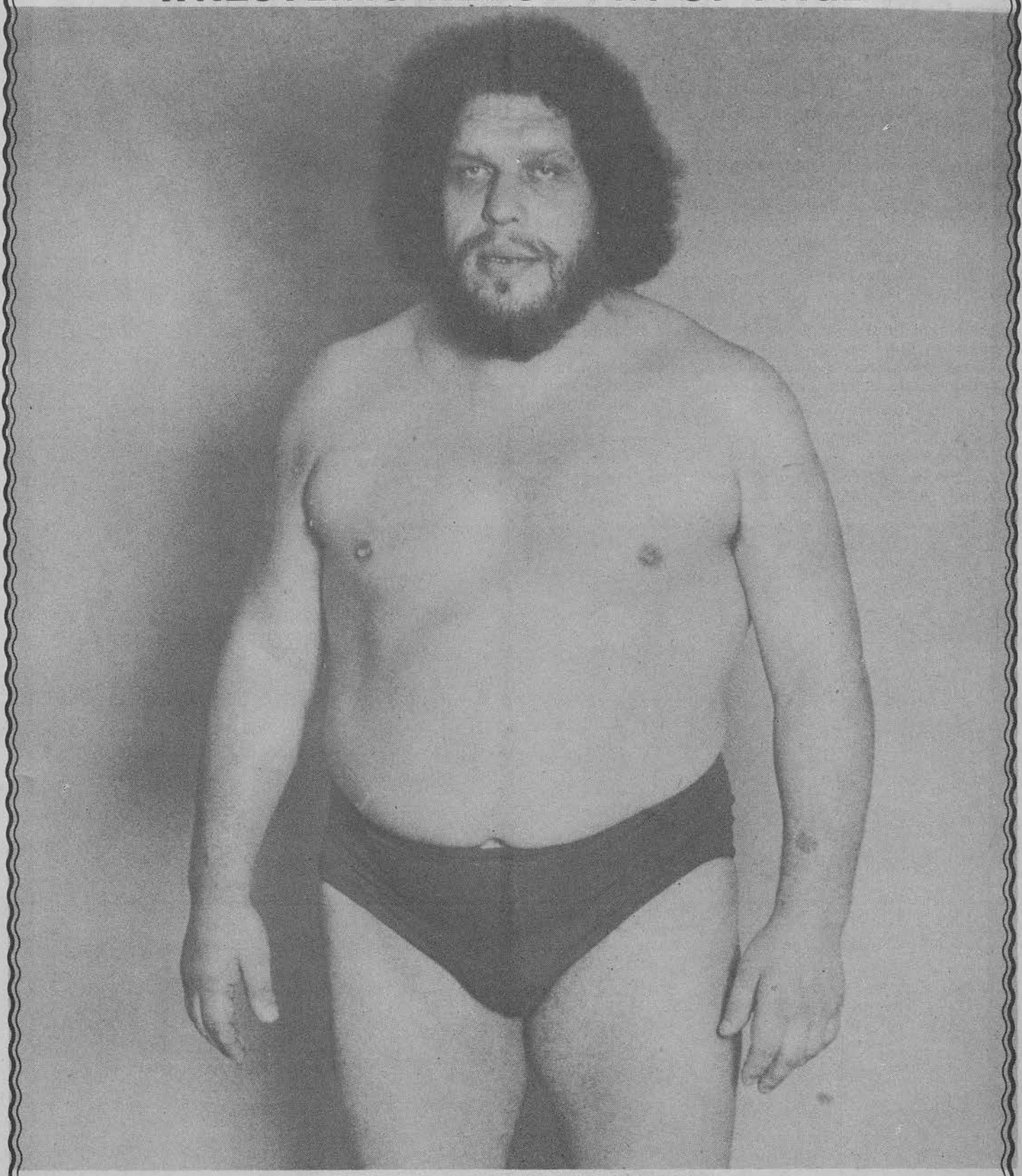
Arriving at the Memphis airport, Jerry was stopped by a group of high school seniors and asked to engage in an impromptu autograph session. Lawler once placed above the Governor of Tennessee in a Memphis poll of the state's most recognizeable celebrities.



At a crucial point of the battle, Lawler asks the fans if he should punish his opponent one more time with "The Big Right Hand." Lawler's legendary fist-drop off the turnbuckles is one few men have gotten up from to beat the referee's count.

After another victory, Lawler holds the Southern Heavyweight Title belt aloft. Jerry has held that title longer than all the other champions combined during the past ten years, and has indeed proven that he is "The King" of wrestling.

WRESTLING REVUE PIN-UP PAGE



ANDRE THE GIANT

(Photo By Ed Loughman)

SCOTT CASEY AND BRUISER BOB SWEETAN ARE SOUTHWEST'S HOTTEST RING FEUD

By James C. Melby

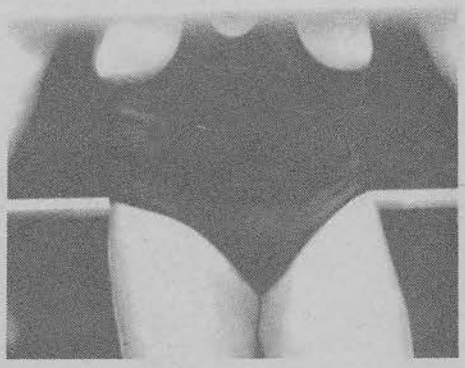
Texas wrestling has always been considered the wildest to be found. Dating back to the Forties, men such as Danny McShain, Dory Funk Sr., and Wild Bull Curry ruled the Lone Star State with swinging fists. Today is no different, only the toughest of the tough can survive the Texas' wrestling rings.

In fact many of the cards promoted under the Southwest Championship Wrestling banner have grudge matches virtually from top to bottom. Chavo Guerrero is feuding with Manny Fernandez, and El Canek is after his scalp too. Bruiser Brody is returning after an eye injury, and seeking revenge on Col. Buck Robley, Hacksaw Jim Duggan, and Bruiser Bob Sweetan. Ricky Morton and partner Ken Lucas are having an all out war with Tully Blanchard and Gino Hernandez, the list goes on and on.

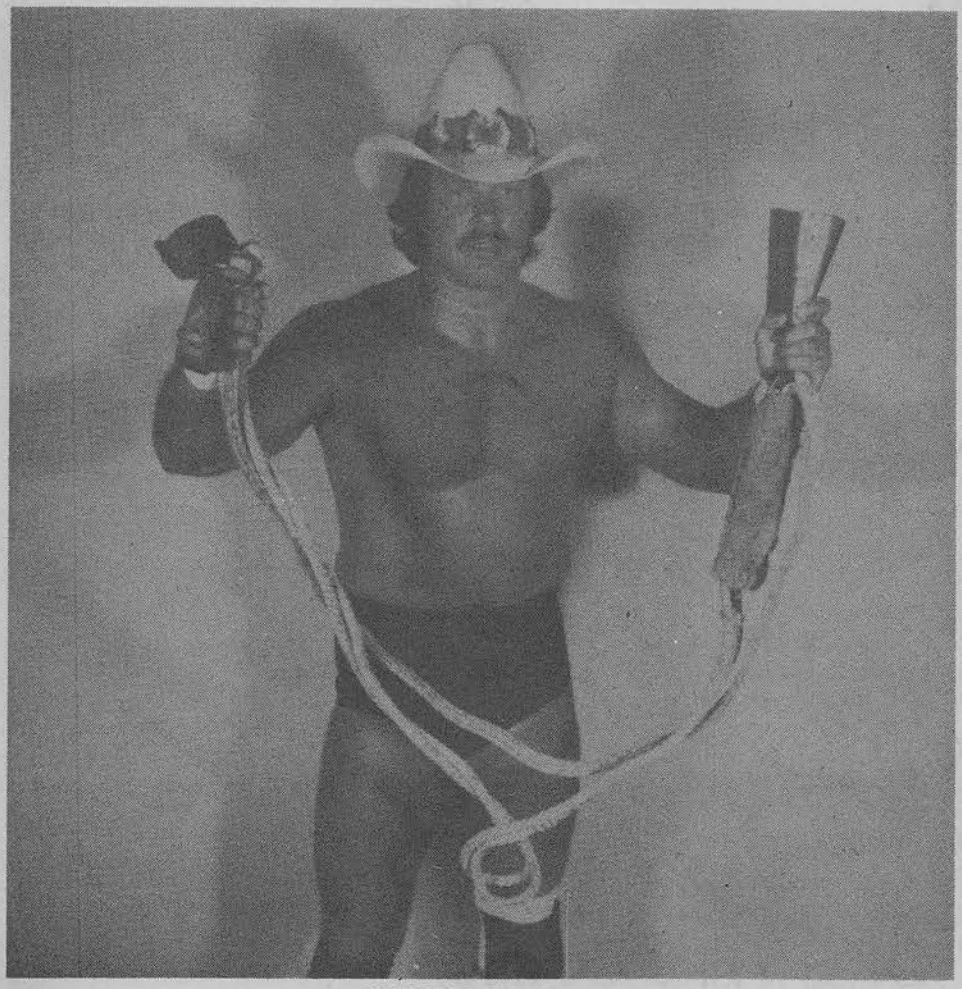
But the bloodiest and wildest feud currently in Texas involves Bruiser Bob Sweetan and Scott Casey, a very popular native son.

About three months ago Sweetan wasn't just satisfied with beating Casey in a match, he took it upon himself to give Scott a piledriver out on a cement ringside floor. Casey was out of action for two months, with his neck in a brace.

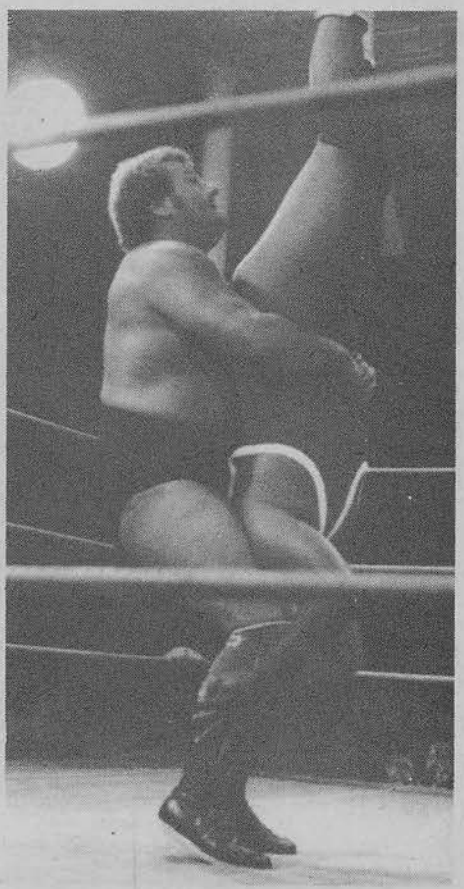
But Scott has returned to the ring wars, and with a vegenance. Any time Sweetan is even in the same building as Casey, whether they are signed to wrestle each other or not, they go at it. Fans are getting used to seeing the two men interfer in each other's bouts. Texas as big as it is, simply isn't large enough for the two of them. Both have vowed to finish each other off once and for all, something has to give, but in the meantime Texas fans are seeing some of the wildest bouts ever held in the state, and that is really saying something!



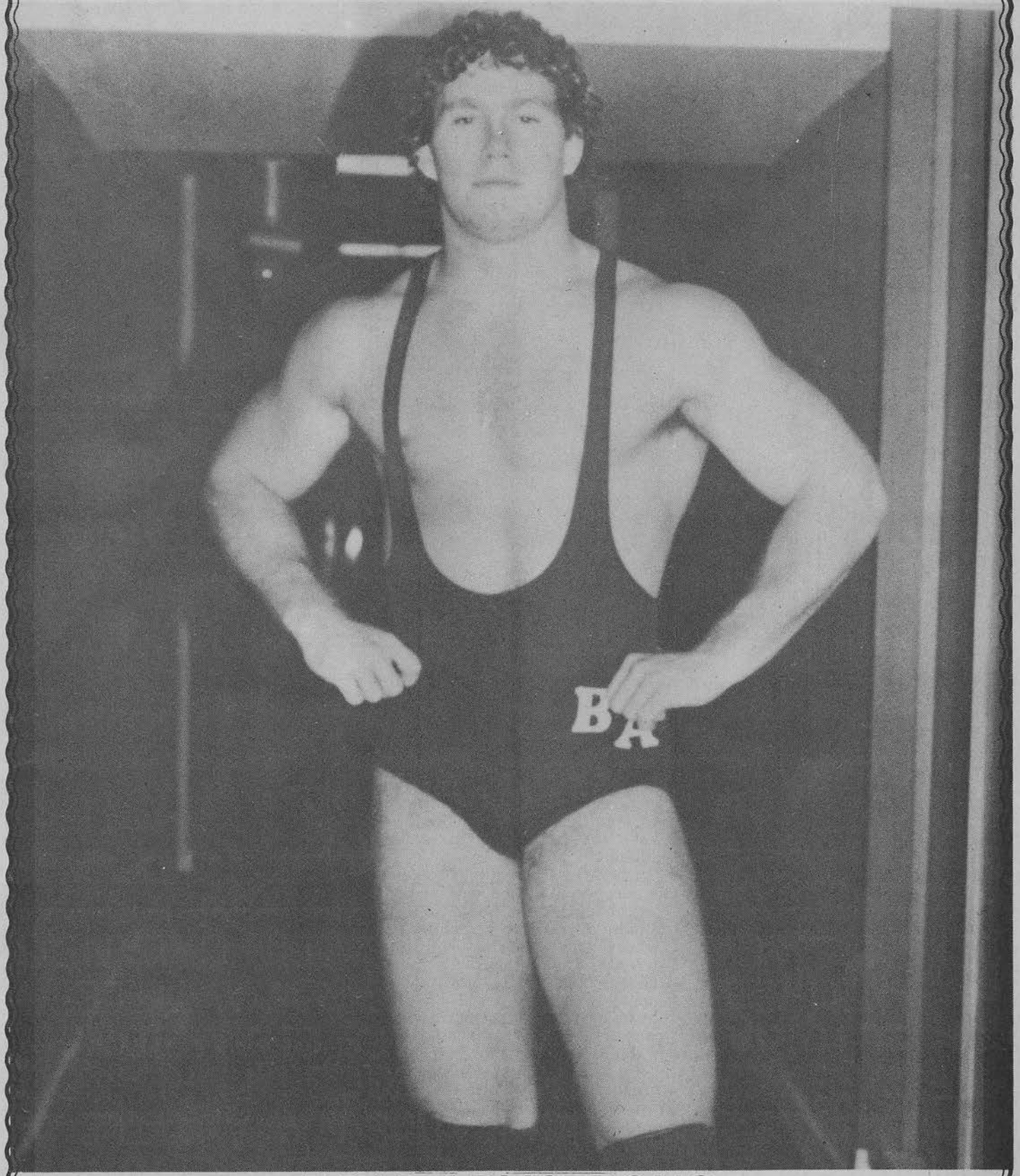
BRUISER BOB SWEETAN



SCOTT CASEY



WRESTLING REVUE PIN-UP PAGE

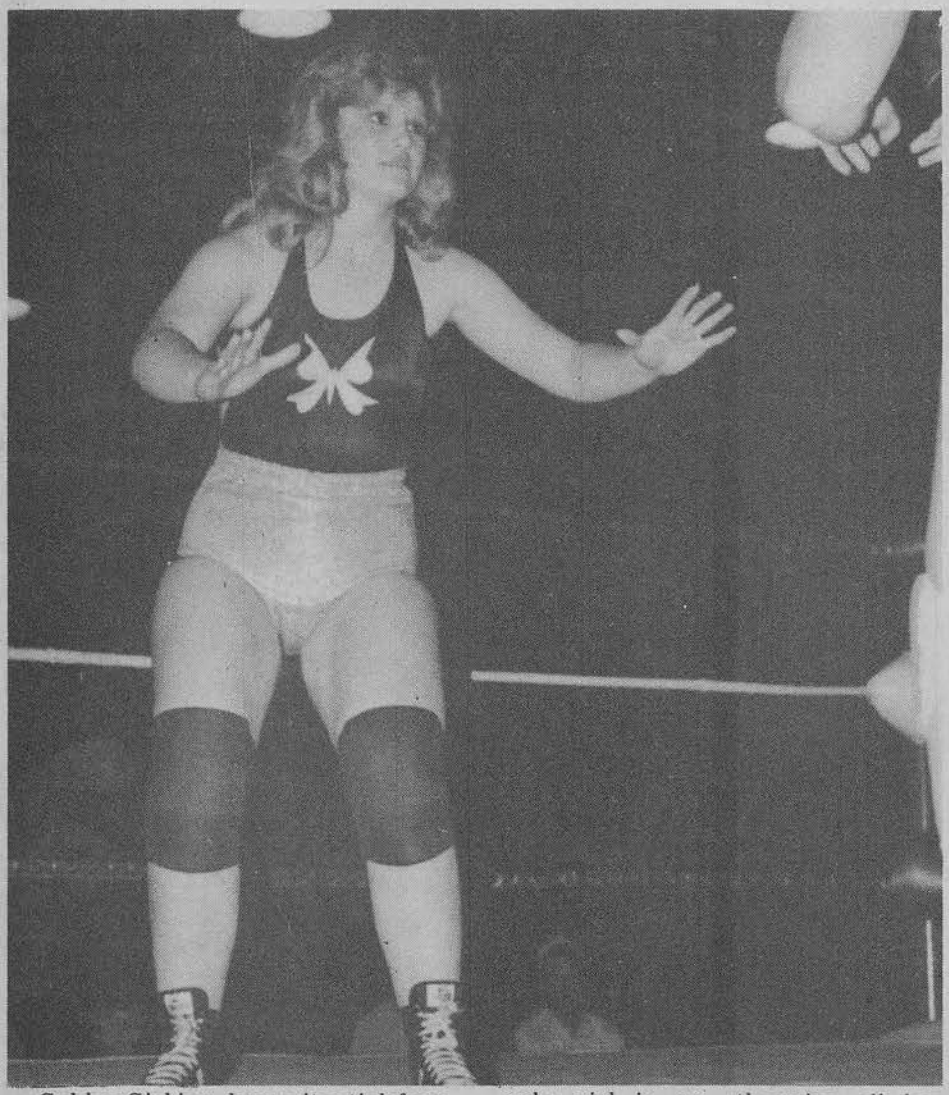


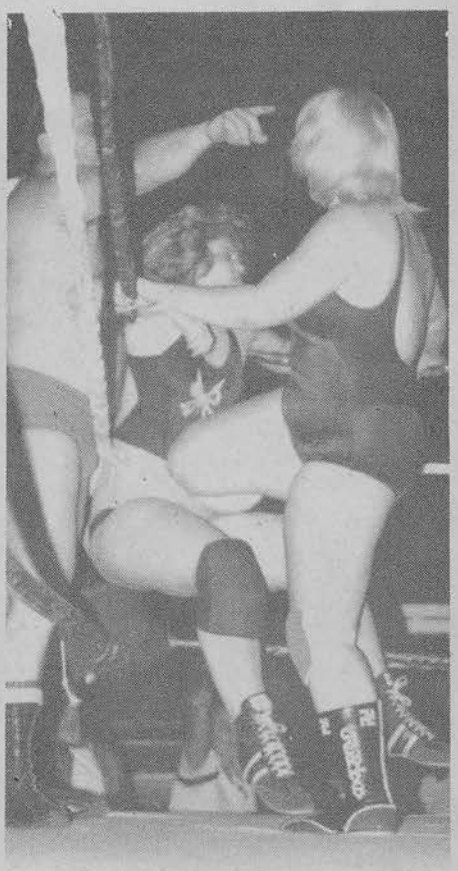
BRAD ARMSTRONG

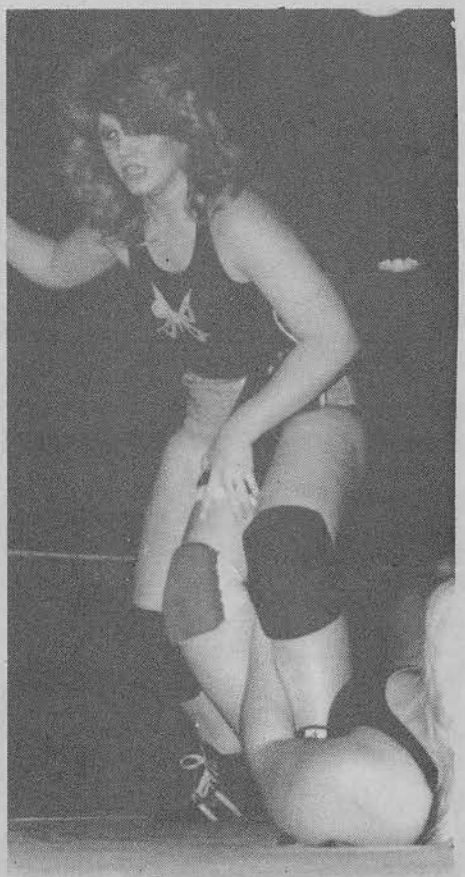
(Photo By Gene Gordon)

THE GOLDEN GIRL - NEW LADY WRESTLER

By Joe Kennedy







Golden Girl is a dynamite stick from the moment she enters the arena. She is an attractive 5'3", 125 pound lady wrestler, with an eye catching 36-25-38 figure.

In the ring she has developed a fast paced aggresive wrestling style and can hold her own against the best of them.

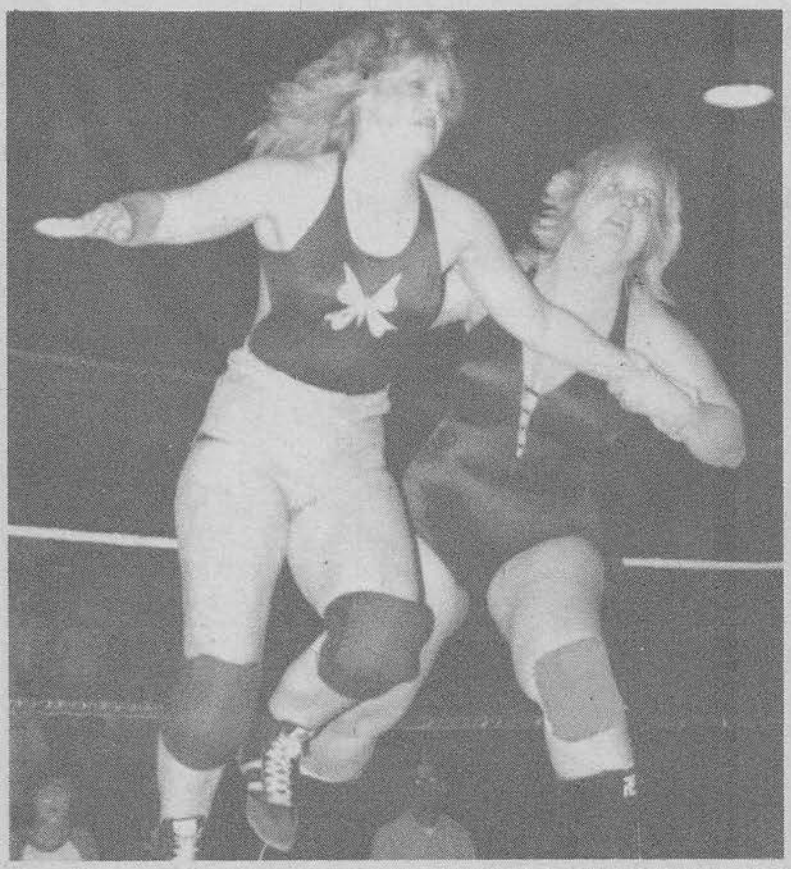
She has survived several bouts against one of the roughest girls in wrestling, Dianr Von Hoffman. Their latest encounter was a mixed tag team match. Golden Girl stood up to her heavier opponent, and withstood the worst punishment that Von Hoffman could dish out. In fact she came out victorious, but had to go the hospital for injuries sustained during the match. That victory was quite an accomplishment considering the fact that she has only been wrestling professionally for a year.

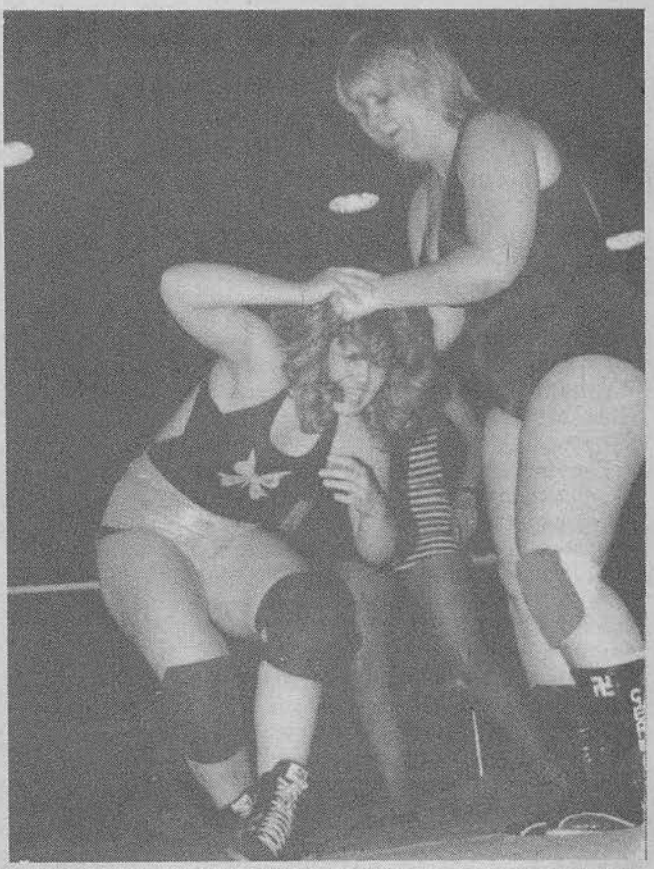
Golden Girl attributes her success to a life long interest in sports. "I was the only girl in an otherwise all boy softball league. I'm proud to say that we won the league championship too!" An amazing fact is that Golden Girl was voted the league's "Most Valuable Player."

In addition to wrestling, Golden Girl is an accomplished musician. She plays banjo, drums, fiddle, guitar, and is quite a good singer. Country music is her favorite, and she would also like to make it big in that field. "I have a back-up band that I sing with, but we don't have a name yet." Golden Girl's musical talents aren't surprising considering her Appalacian heritage in the Blue Grass state.

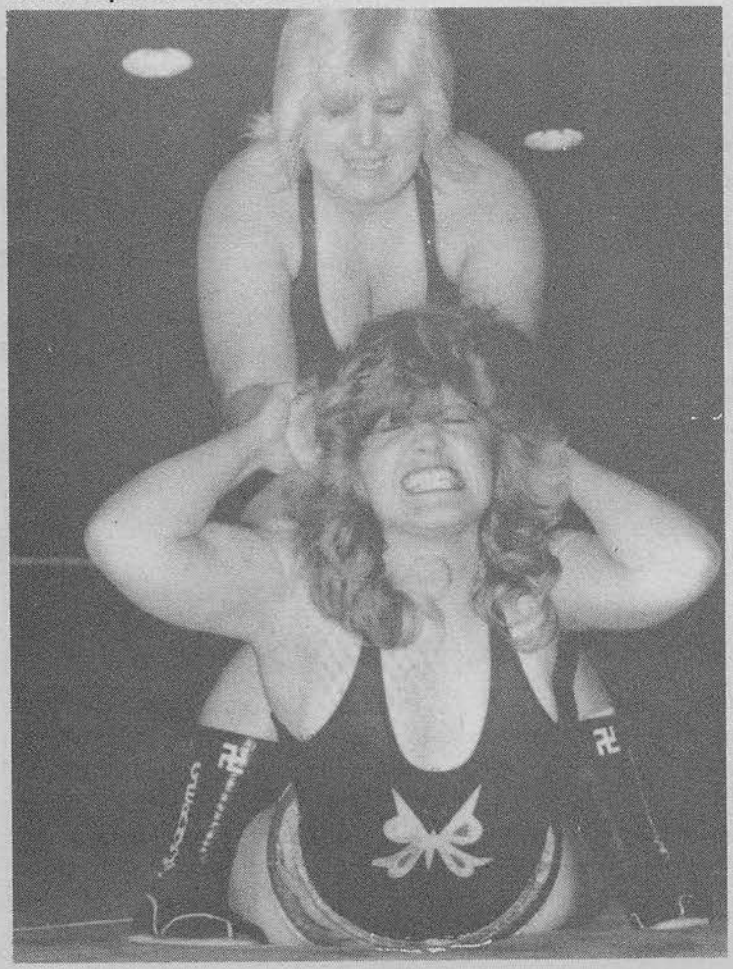
An artist in motion inside of the wrestling ring, Golden Girl's talent also extends to paper. "I just like to draw." She was elected to the National Art Honor Society for some of her outstanding work.

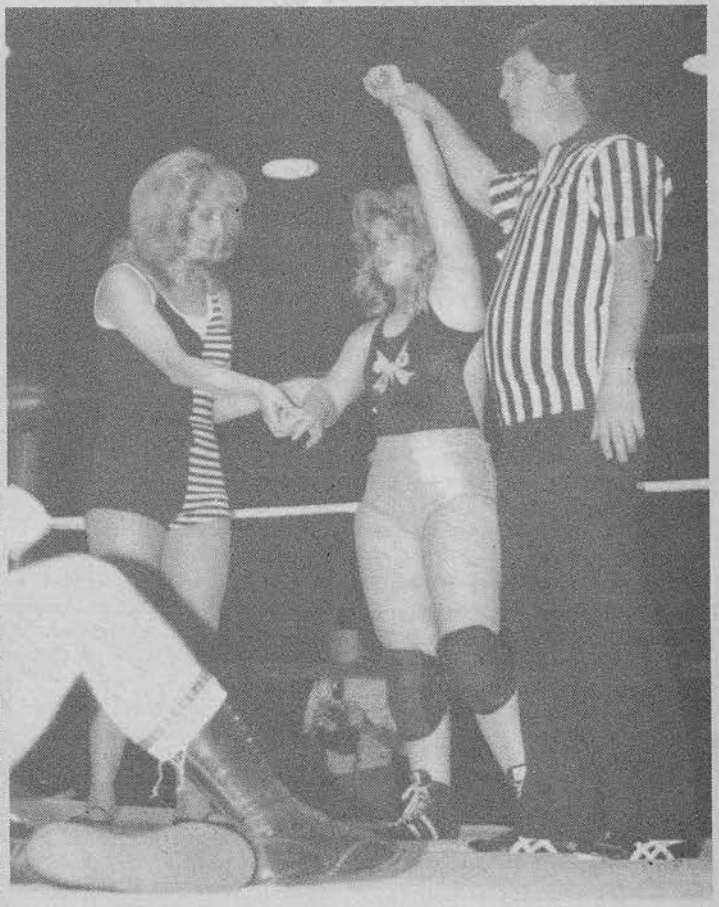
She is without a doubt a very talented young lady at the age of eighteen. Be watching for this bright young lady wrestlers to be a rising star in years to come.





Despite some brutal punishment at the hands of burly Diane Von Hoffman, The Golden Girl came back to score a pinfall victory over her rival and gain the victory for her side in a mixed tag team match. She paid the price though, her injured wrist required medical attention.





A LOOK AT TIGER MASK - THE NEW W.W.F. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

By George Napolitano

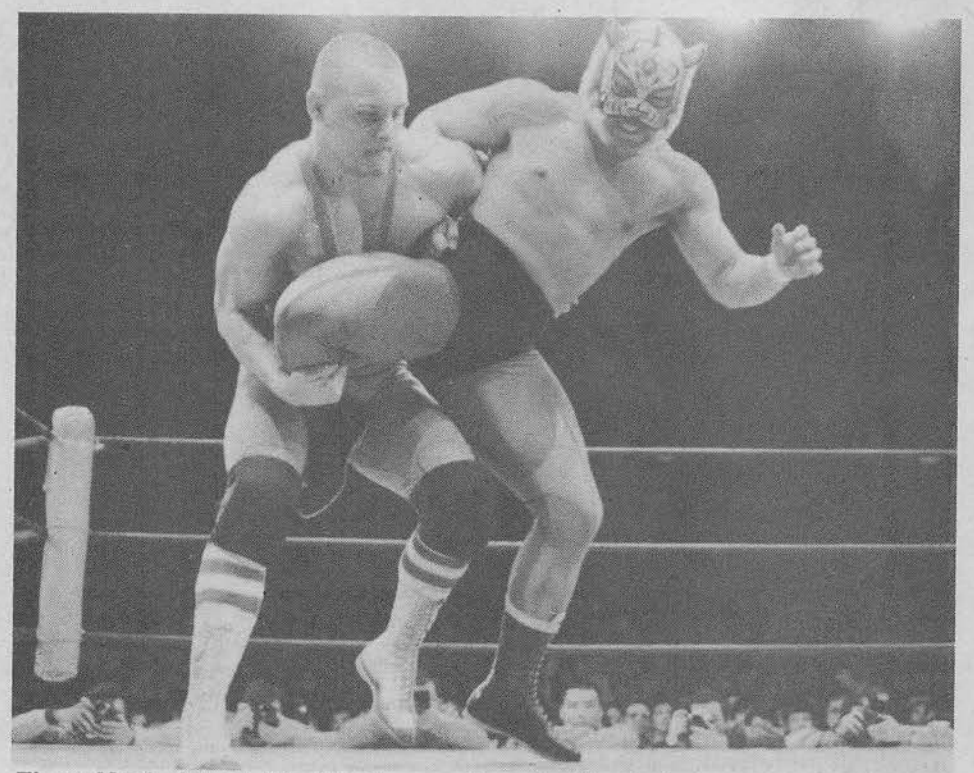
The Junior Heavyweight division of the World Wrestling Federation now has a new champion and his name is Tiger Mask. To win the coveted Junior title, Tiger Mask defeated the Dynamite Kid on Jan. 1, in Tokyo in the finals of an elimination set up when the former titleholder "Dragon" Fujinami relinquished his title to concentrate on competing in the heavyweight ranks.

The new champion, Tiger Mask, has to be the most exciting new wrestler to appear on the scene in the last several years. The masked star is simply sensational inside the ring. Tiger Mask can execute holds and counter holds with amazing grace and agility and besides this, his flying maneuvers are simply astonishing. In many of Tiger Mask's bouts, besides the usual wrestling techniques, one will see flying tackles, body blocks and back flips like you have never seen before, as well as moves that one would only see in professional kick karate bouts. In the ring, Tiger Mask employs these kick karate moves with the upmost precision, and as a result his side kicks to the head have stunned many an opponent leaving them easy prey for a pinfall and victory for the sensational masked star.

Tiger Mask has been wrestling in Japan and througout the Orient for the last six months and in this time the masked star's popularity has grown to enormous proportions. At the moment the caped Tiger Mask approaches the ringside area the fans begin to cheer and call out his name. As music blares over the loud speakers, Tiger Mask mounts the top rope and with his cape outstretched leaps into the ring to the delight of all in attendance. But as soon as the bell rings, Tiger Mask is all business and with his wide assortment of moves, as mentioned earlier, the masked man has remained undefeated.

Who then is Tiger Mask? Before assuming this new identity, Tiger Mask wrestled for five years in Japan, England and Mexico. It was while in Mexico that the masked star learned all of his flying techniques and incorporated them into his own style of combat. It was this merger of style and technique that has worked out perfectly.

"Ever since I was a little boy I wanted to be a professional wrestler," Tiger Mask stated while relaxing in a quiet Tokyo nightspot after the



Tiger Mask found his hip throw attempt effectively countered by The Dynamite Kid, who hails from England.

Tiger Mask floored an opponent, who also wore a mask, with a perfectly executed flying dropkick.

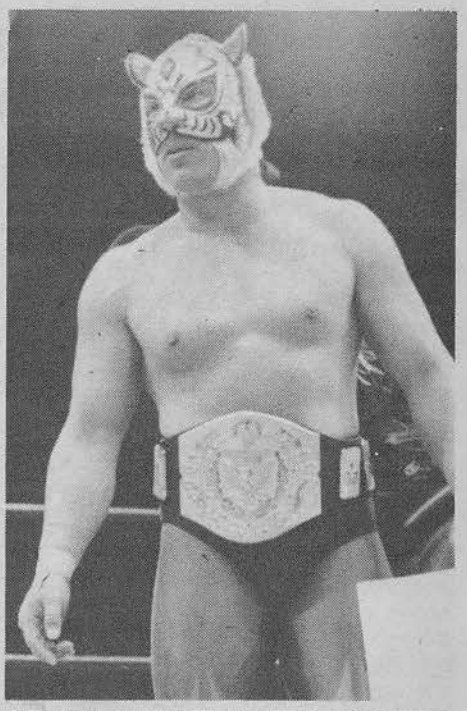
evening's matches. "I used to practice wrestling holds all the time with my friends in hopes of someday becoming a professional wrestler myself. But while I practiced wrestling I also studied judo, karate and eventually I became a professional kick karate fighter. I did this for a few years, but then I returned to my first love, professional wrestling."

In the beginning of his professional wrestling career Tiger Mask did not take the wrestling world by storm. In fact, Tiger Mask lost many of his matches at first, but the young man stuck with it. After his initial introduction to wrestling in Japan, Tiger Mask traveled to Mexico. It was in Mexico that he put it all together. "I was determined to make it as a professional wrestler and watching the Mexican wrestlers I knew that I had to change my style a little bit if I wanted to be successful. While in Mexico, I used to watch every match. Eventually I began to train with some of the Mexican wrestlers, and working with them I learned quite a bit. It was then that I decided to use my own kick karate ability and the highflying Mexican moves which I was learning and blend them together into my own style."

Immediately a new star was born! Tiger Mask stayed in Mexico several more months perfecting his new style before returning home to Japan. Upon his return the new star assumed the identity of "Tiger Mask" and he has been nothing short of sensational ever since.

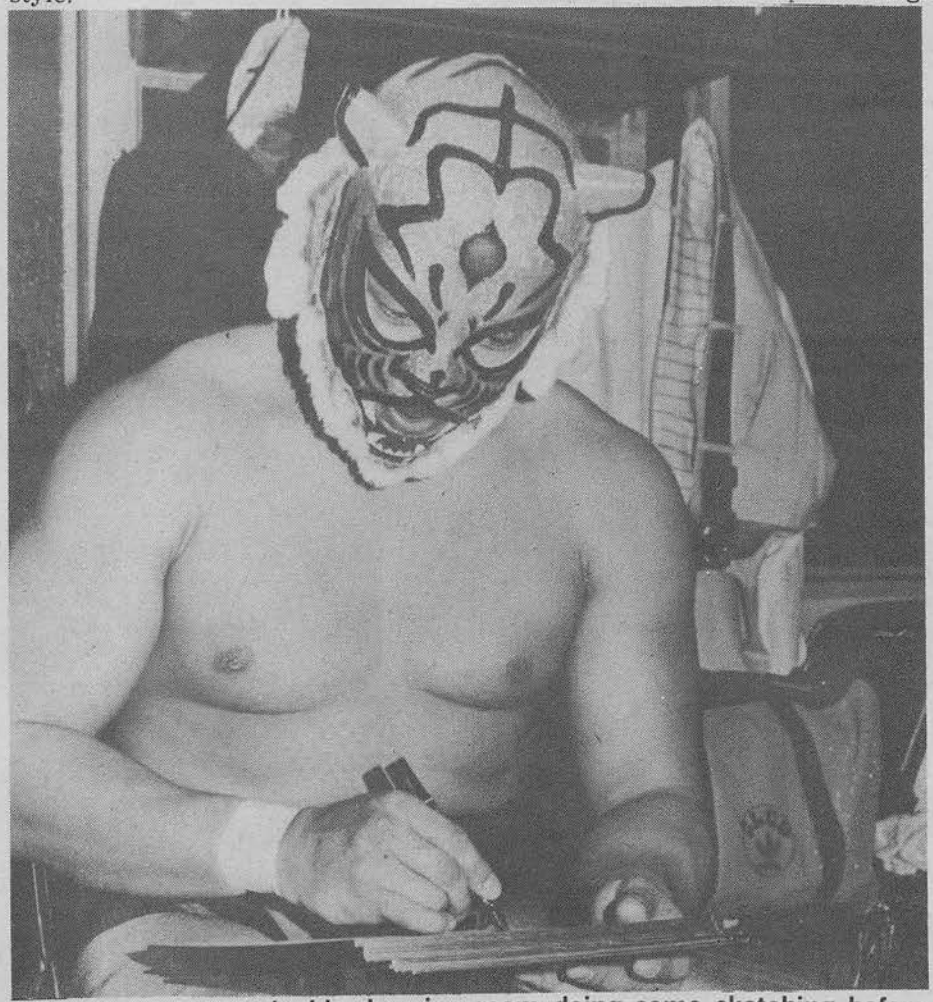
The returning star chose the name "Tiger Mask" to capitalize on a highly successful animated Japanese cartoon hero that was sweeping Japan. The animated "Tiger Mask" can be compared to our own super heroes like Batman, Spiderman, Superman and in many of his episodes Tiger Mask is seen fighting off the evil villains. Upon returning to Japan with his new style of combat fully developed, the real life Tiger Mask was an instant sensation owing to his fantastic style of wrestling.

"I knew I wanted to make it in the sport and I traveled to Mexico to learn all I could about wrestling," Tiger Mask stated. "Once I felt I was ready I returned here to Japan to show off my new found knowledge. But having spent so much time in Mexico and seeing all of the different men that have become stars there I wanted to try something different here in Japan. That's when I decided upon the Tiger Mask idea. The Tiger Mask name gave me immediate recognition, but I knew that I would be taking a chance using this name because if I was not able to live up to the Tiger Mask image I would have been a failure. But fortunately I have been successful and the fans have been just great."

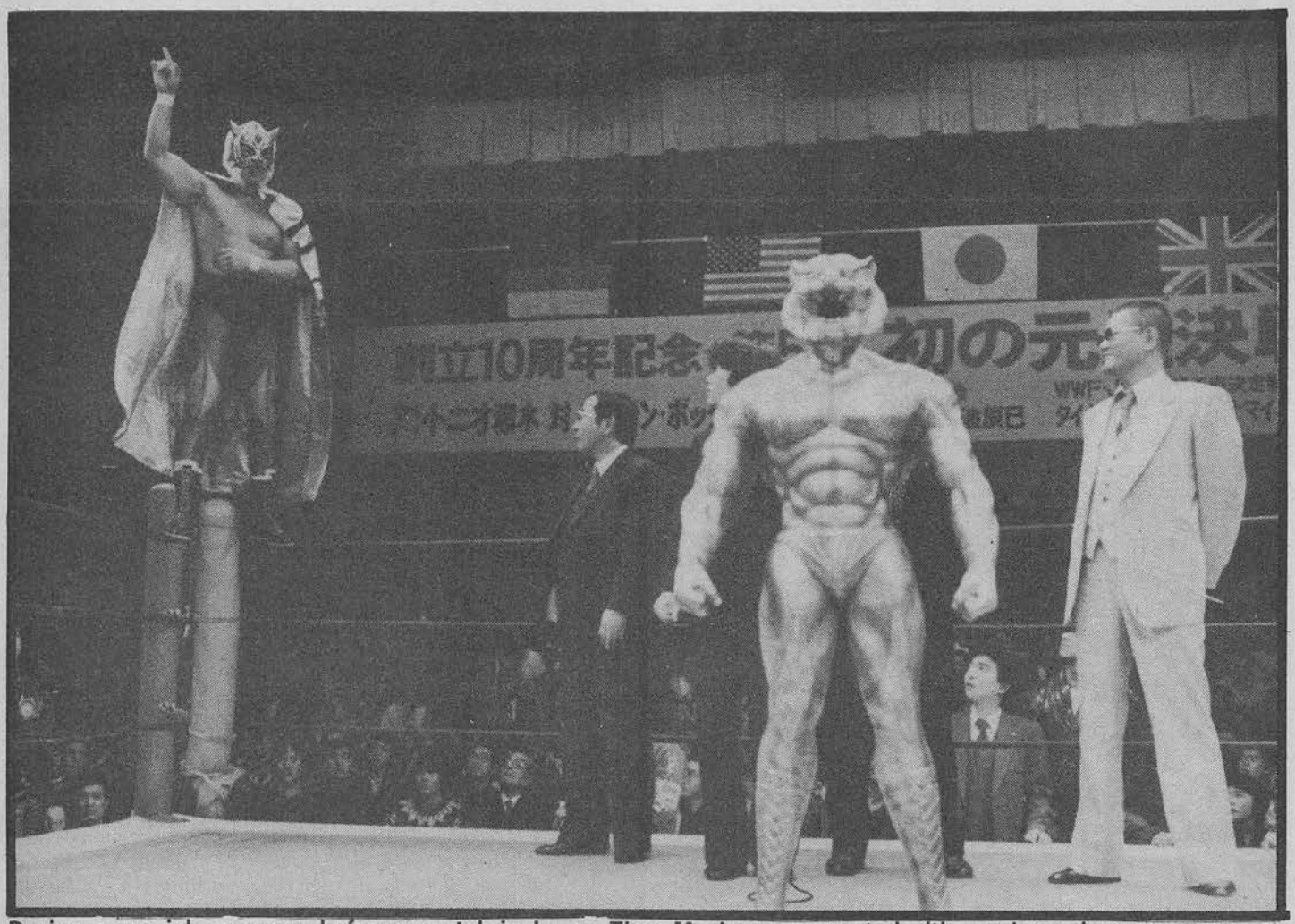


The crowning achievement of Tiger Mask's career to date has to be his capture of the prestigious WWF Junior Heavyweight Title and the immediate world wide recognition that his newly won title has afforded him. "I would love to thank the fans here in Japan for their loyal support and also the New Japan Pro Wrestling office for giving me the opportunity to compete here and wrestle for the title. Now I will be very busy defending my title here in Japan and also in the United States. I will soon be wrestling in Los Angeles and also in New York defending the WWF Junior title and I hope that the fans in the United States will accept me."

Once the fans througout the United States have a chance to see Tiger Mask for themselves there is no reason why he will not be heralded as a new superstar of the eighties for Tiger Mask is really that good. But in order to truly appeciate the ability and wrestling expertise that Tiger Mask possesses one must see him for themself. A mere description can not give justice to the tremendous wrestling ability that this star possesses. In time, however, as Tiger Mask begins his tour of the U.S. everyone in the Northern Hemisphere will see for themselves why everyone throughout the Orient is absolutely wild about Tiger Mask!



Tiger Mask relaxes in his dressing room doing some sketching before entering the ring to wrestle.



During a special ceremony before a match in Japan, Tiger Mask was presented with a unique character statue of himself.

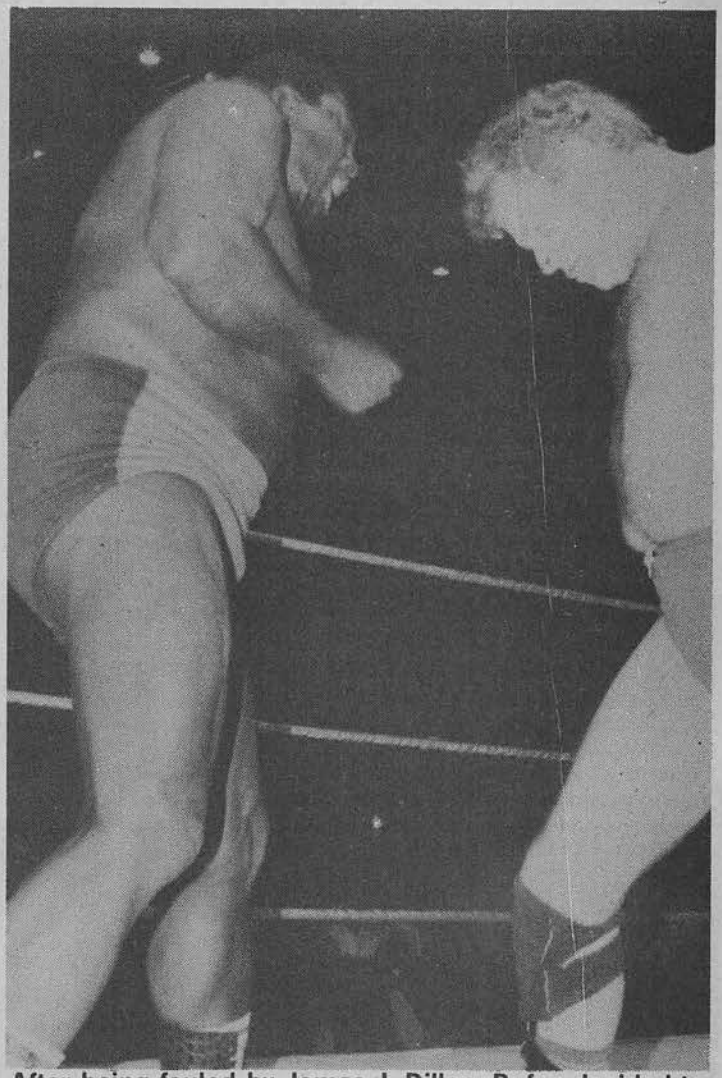
Tiger Mask removes his colorful ring robe as he is introduced to the crowd.

A Boston Crab hold sends another of Tiger Mask's opponents to the dressing room in defeat.

RUFUS R. JONES - PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING'S FREIGHT TRAIN

By Shawn Swagler

Rufus R. Jones receives instructions from the referee before wrestling a recent Des Moines, Iowa match.



After being fouled by James J. Dillon, Rufus decided to fight fire with fire and use his fists.

Rufus R. Jones is one of the most popular, if not the most popular wrestler ever to wrestle in Mid-America. Rufus began his brilliant career fifteen years ago in Boston, Massachutes. He was born in a little place called Dillon, South Carolina. Jones has wrestled all over, Japan, Australia, Canada and all over the United States. He's held such prestigious titles as the Central States Heavyweight Championship, Alabama State Heavyweight Championship and also the Central States Tag Team Championship on more than one occassion, with Bulldog Bob Brown and more recently with Dewey Robertson. They captured the titles in a one night tournament. They outlasted such teams as Chan Chung and Ron McFarlane, Gene Lewis and James J. Dillon. In the final match of the tournament they defeated the team of Bruiser Bob Sweetan and Jerry Brown by disqualification to win the belts.

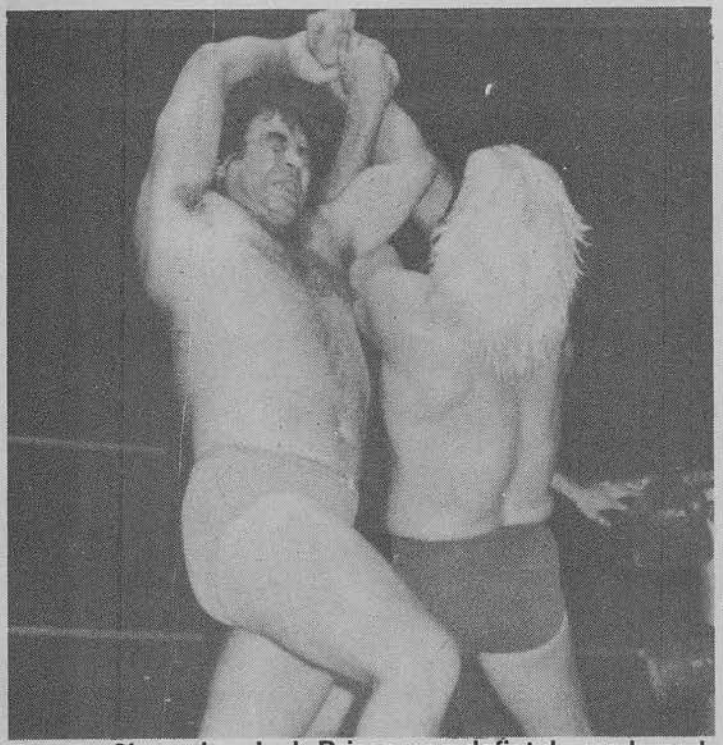
Rufus R. Jones has wrestled for the World Title several times. He wrestled Harley Race for the N.W.A. title several times and came very cloe to capturing the title. "I've come close to winning the World Title and that belt means more to me than anything in the world because it is the World Title. Ever since I was a kid wrestling in school, I always thought about one day becoming the World Champion."

Rufus has been in a lot of tough matches. "Well, I'll tell you my toughest opponents. They all are tough until I win. You know sometimes I go into the ring and say this guy will be easy and the first thing you know you got one, two, three on you. So all my opponents are tough until I win, then they're not tough anymore."

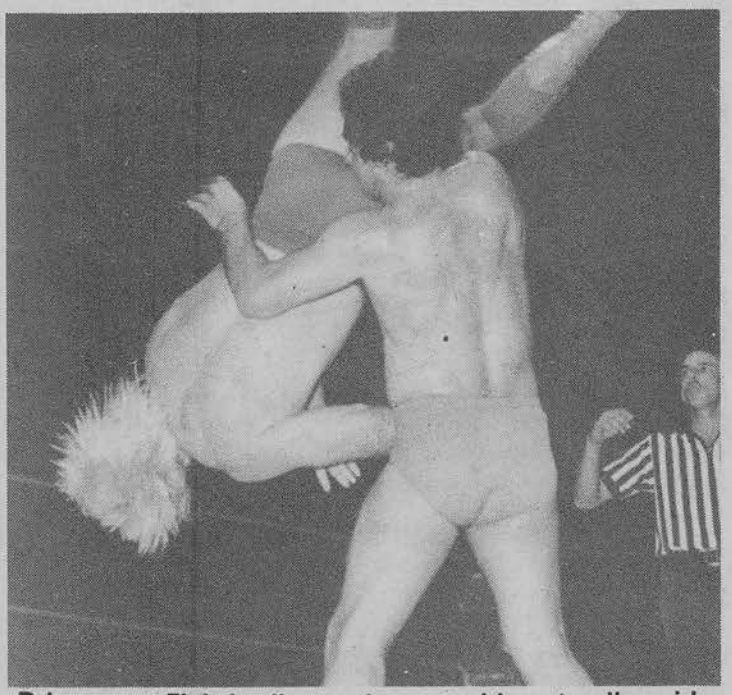
It is perfectly clear Jones loves his fans. "Fans are great. Everywhere I wrestle fans have been fantastic, been beautiful, they have backed me up 100% all the way." Fans ask for autographs wherever he goes. "I get it every day. In the arena here, the street, restaurants and hotels. They are your fans, they support you all the way and stand behind you. And well, you got to give autographs. I think it's the ting to do. When I was little I used to see stars and say can I have your autograph please, and sometimes they'd turn me down and I would feel bad. So I said when I grow up, I'll never turn down a fan that wants an autograph and I haven't so far."

A PICTORIAL LOOK AT THREE CHAMPIONS
"NATURE BOY" RIC FLAIR'S N.W.A. TITLE DEFENSE AGAINST JACK BRISCO IN ORLANDO

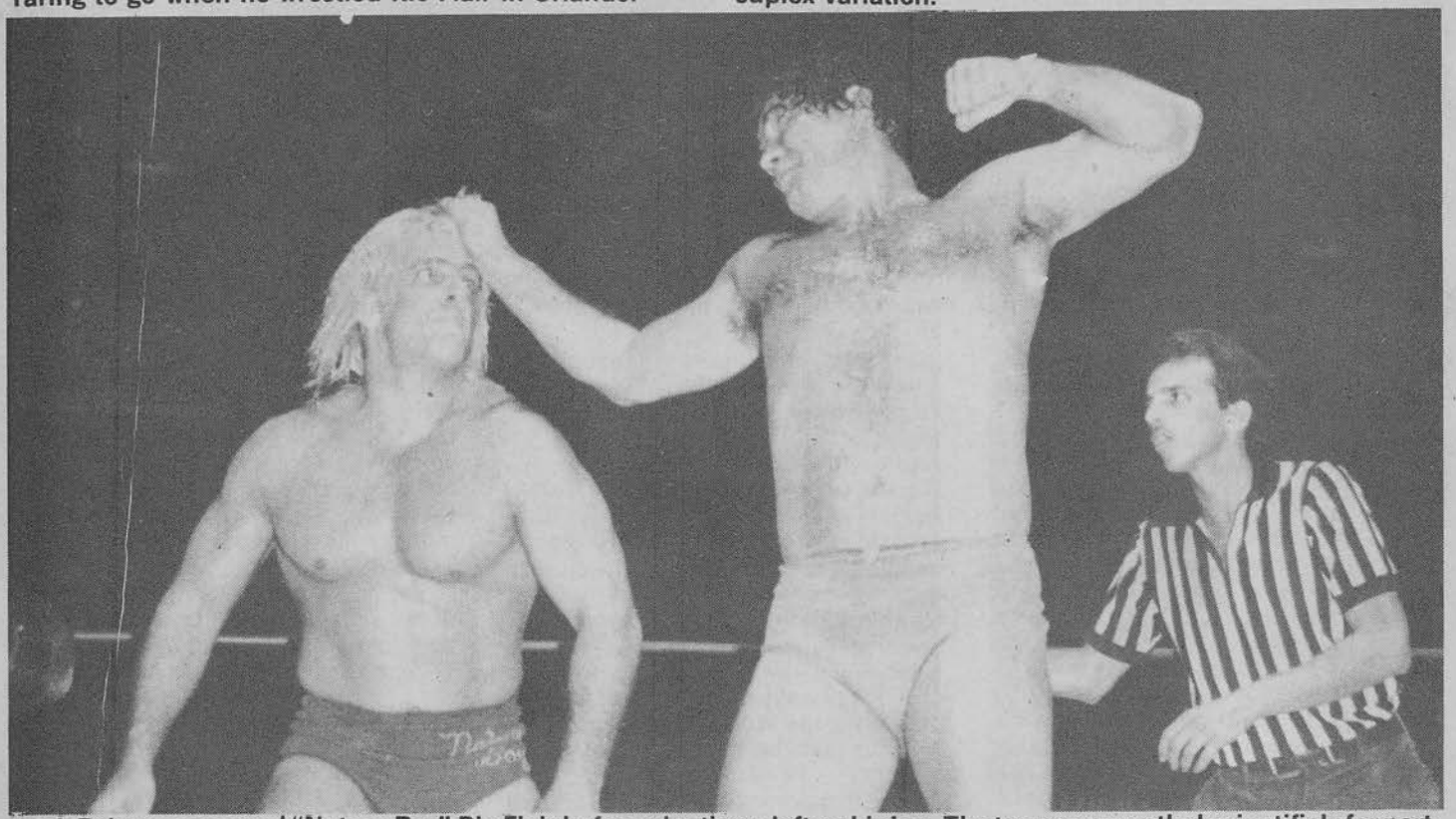
Photo Feature By Larry Cranston



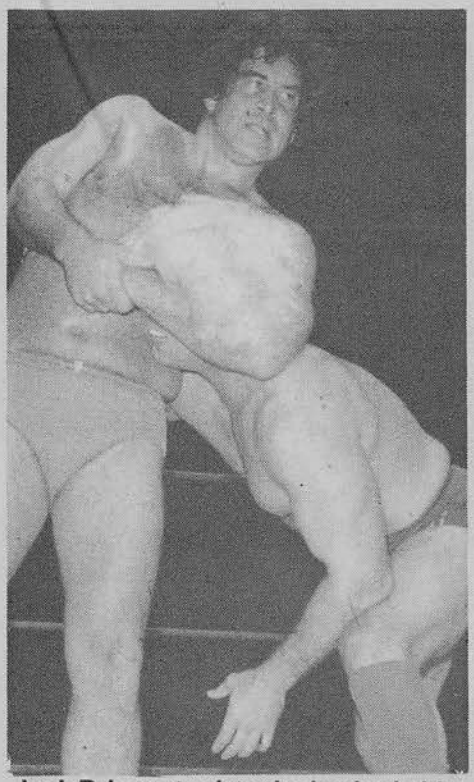
Former Champion Jack Brisco was defintely ready and raring to go when he wrestled Ric Flair in Orlando.



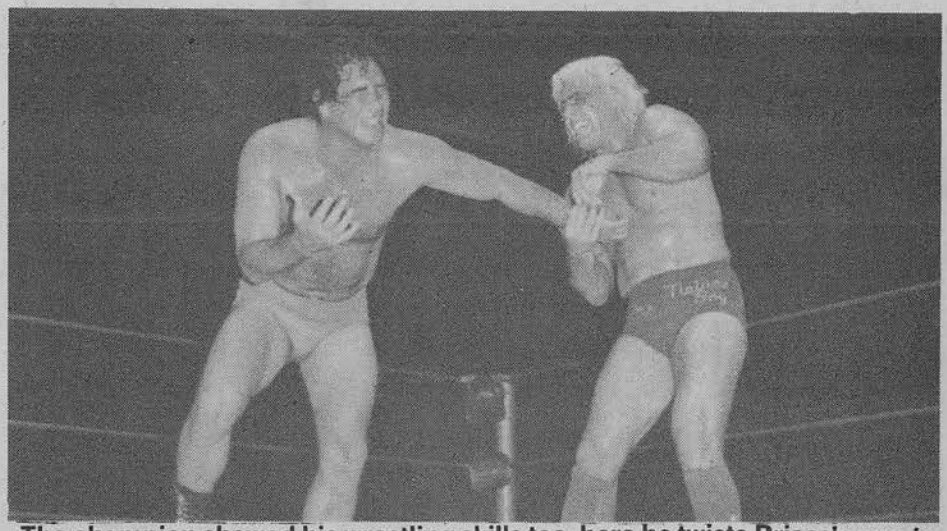
Brisco sent Flair hurling to the mat with a standing side suplex variation.



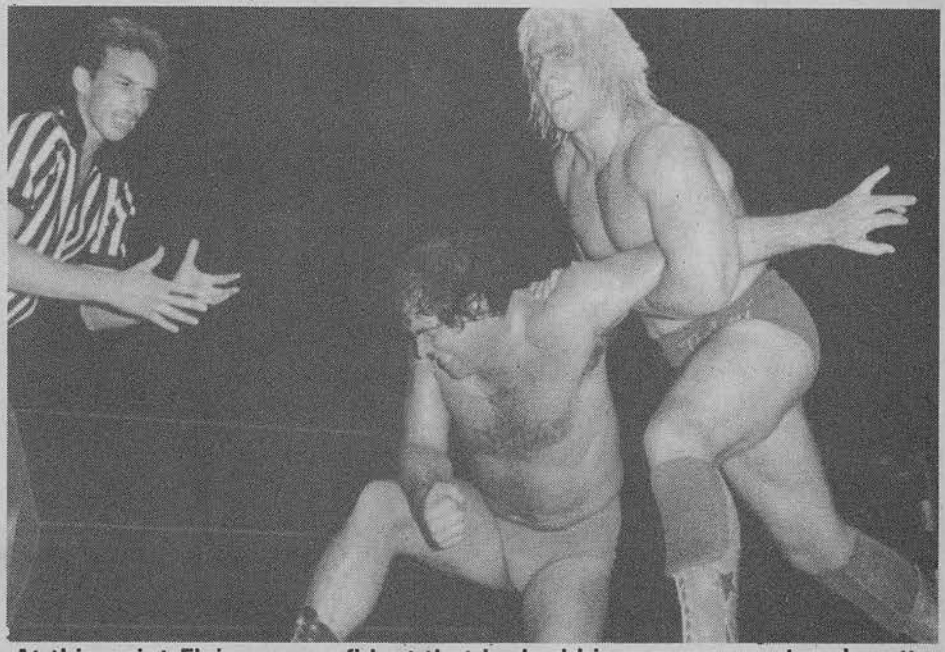
Jack Brisco measured "Nature Boy" Ric Flair before planting a left on his jaw. The two men wrestled scientificly for part of the rnatch, and also did some brawling.



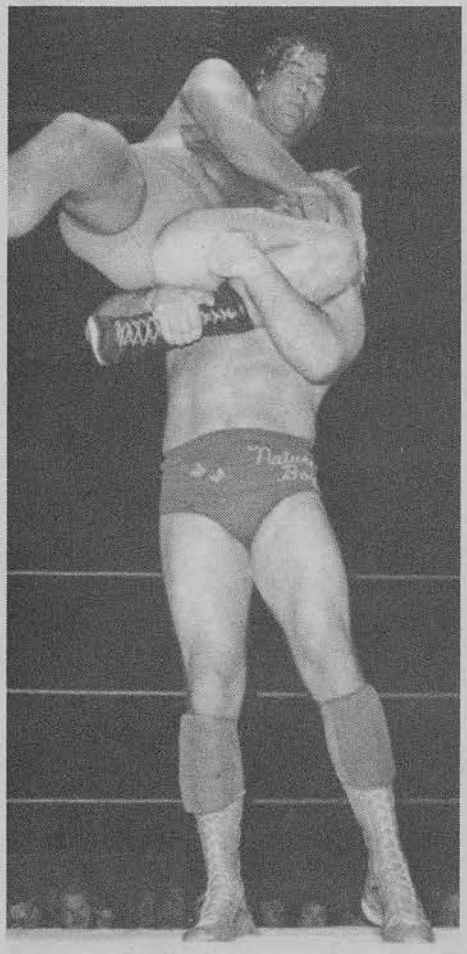
Jack Brisco stuck to the basics in his effort to try and once more win the N.W.A. Title.



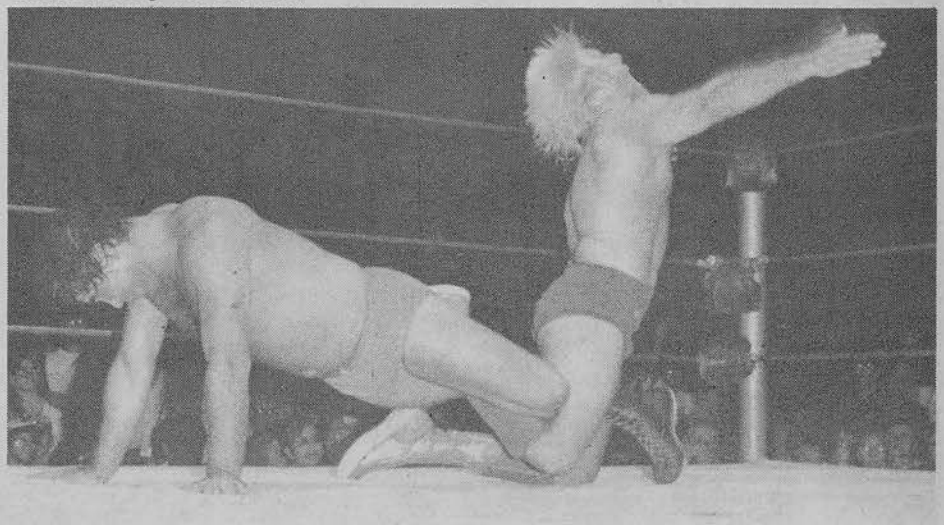
The champion showed his wrestling skills too, here he twists Brisco's arm in an uncomfortable position.



At this point Flair was confident that he had his man worn out and pretty much ready for the kill.



"Nature Boy" escaped from his predicament by slamming Brisco down over his knee.

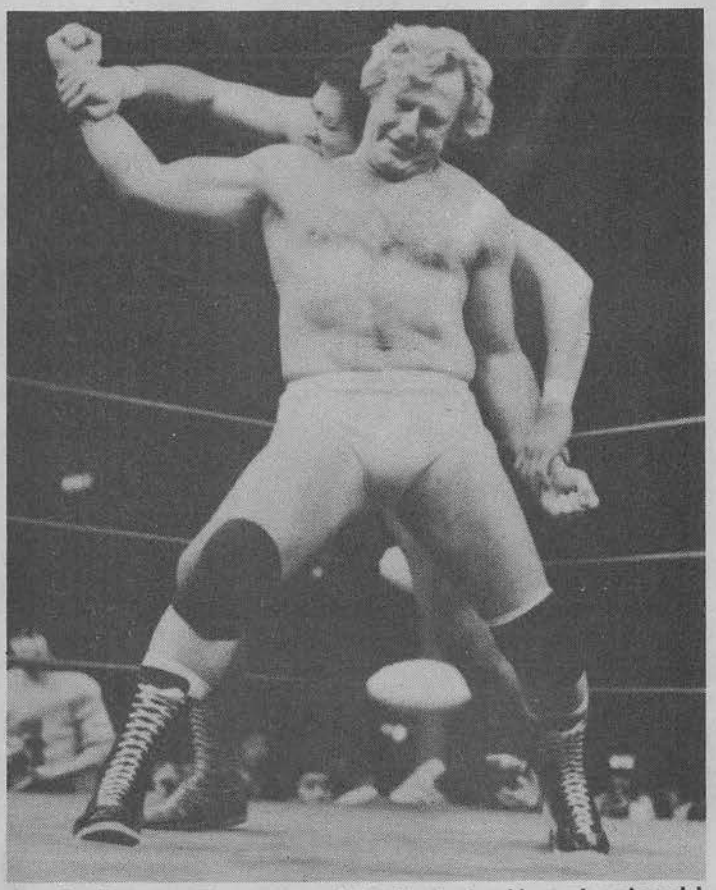


He had a surprise when he went for a figure four leglock, Jack reversed it. Moments later "Nature Boy" was disqualified for unruly tactics.

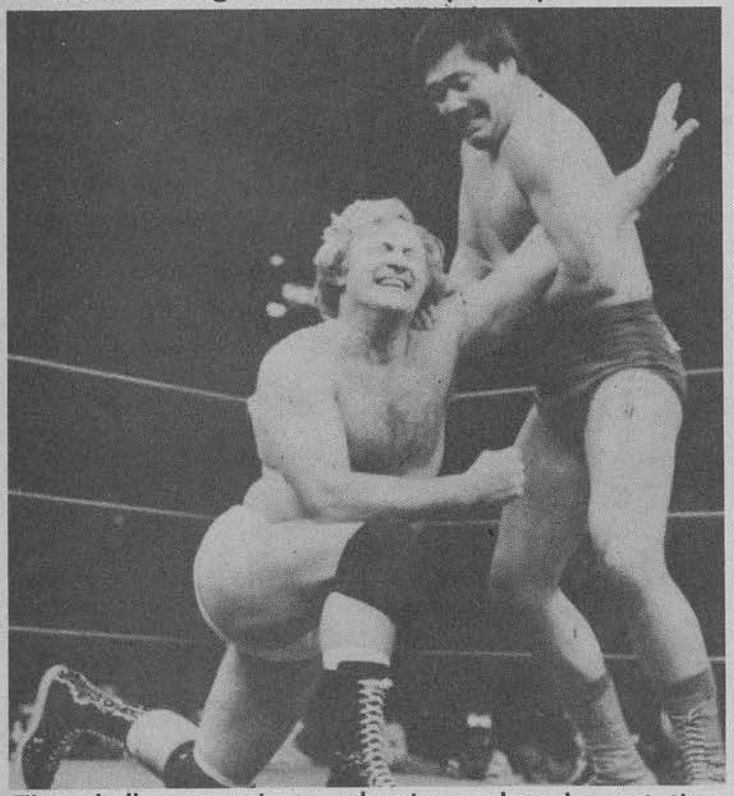
NICK BOCKWINKEL'S A.W.A. TITLE BOUT WITH JUMBO TSURUTA IN JAPAN

Photo Feature By Koichi Yoshizawa

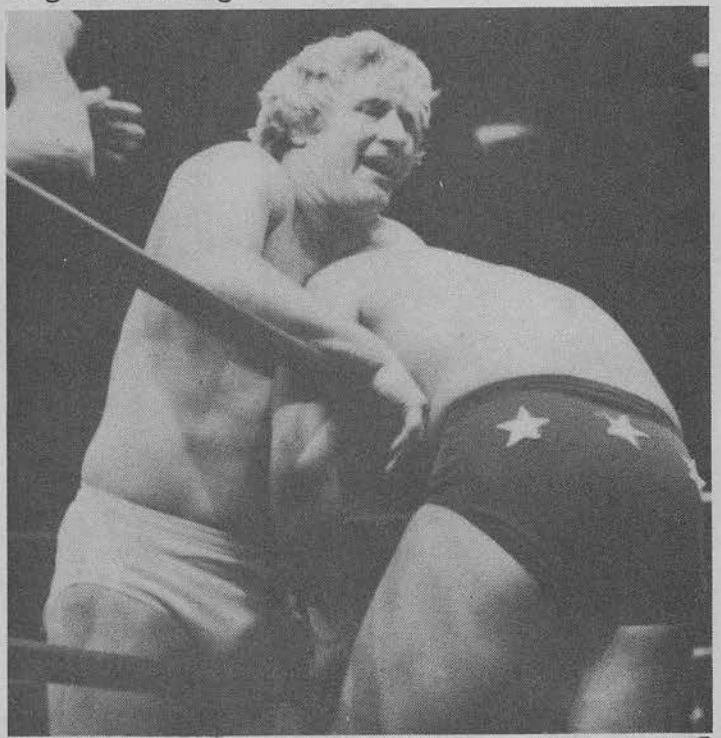
Nick Bockwinkel received a beautiful bouquet of flowers before defending the A.W.A. Championship.



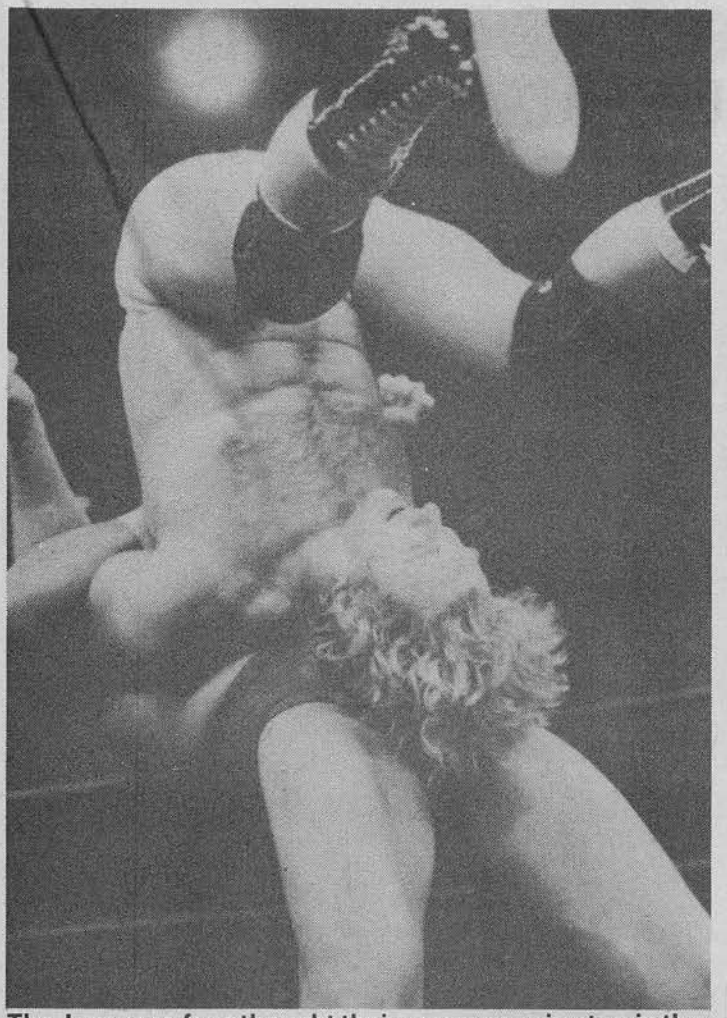
Jumbo Tommy Tsuruta and Bock clashed in a classic mid ring test of strength.



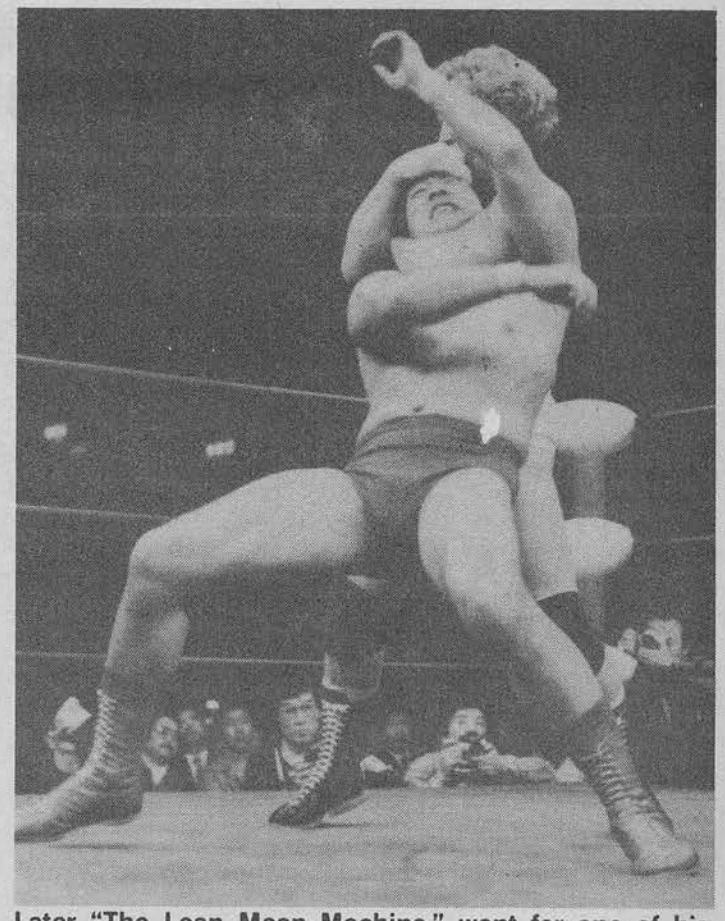
The challenger got an advantage when he put the champion in a painful armbar.



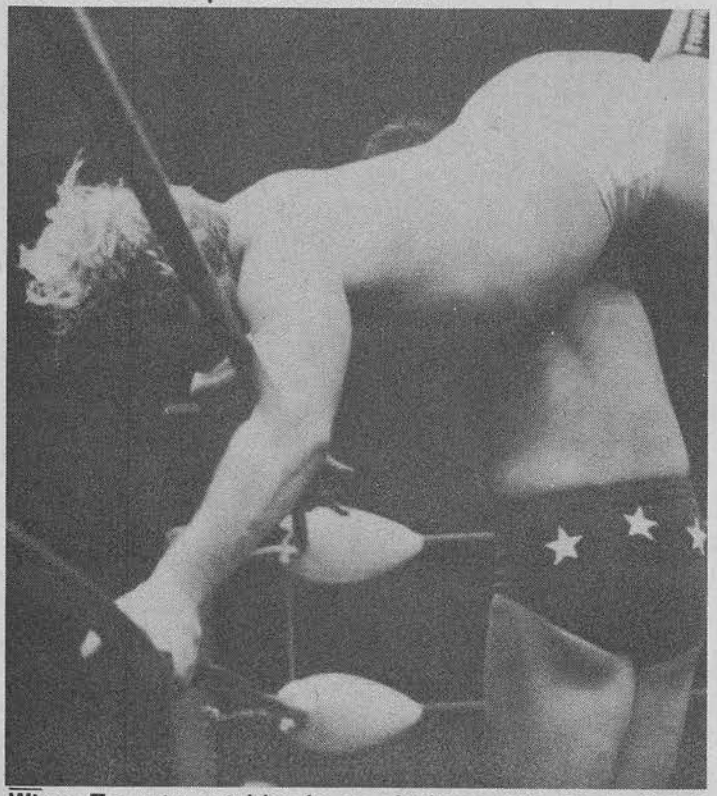
After tossing his challenger out of the ring, Nick choked him on the ropes when he tried to return.



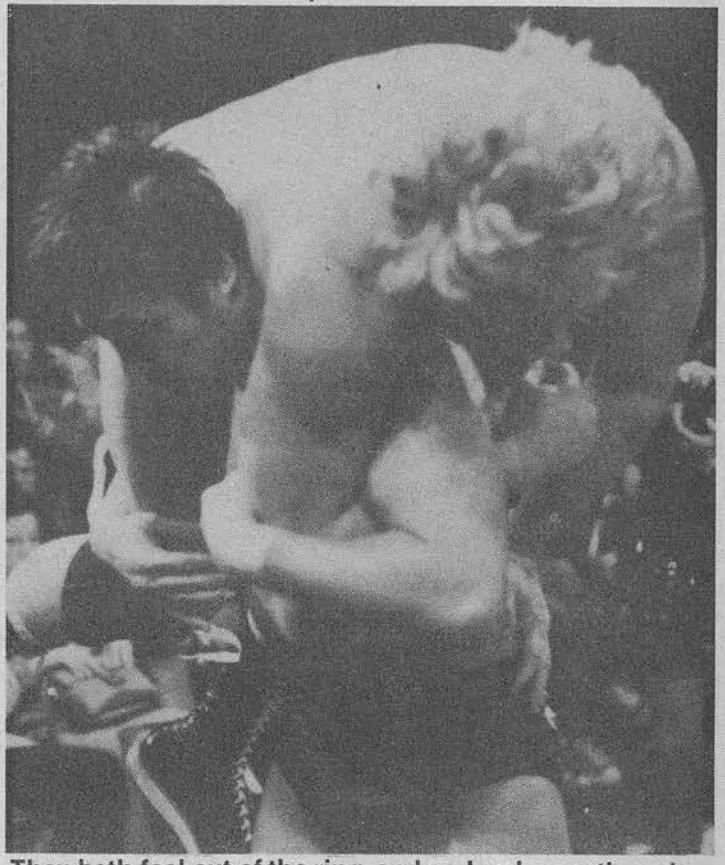
The Japanese fans thought their man was going to win the title when he suplexed Bockwinkel.



Later "The Lean Mean Machine," went for one of his favorite moves, the sleeper hold.



When Tsuruta got him in an airplane spin, Bockwinkel sought the safety of the ropes.

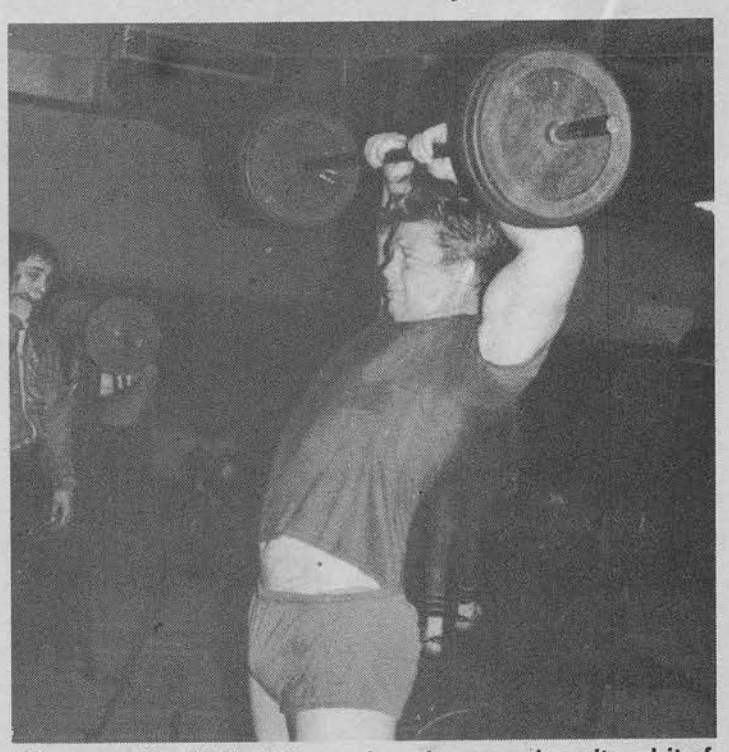


They both feel out of the ring, and as Jumbo continued to twirl, both men got counted out.

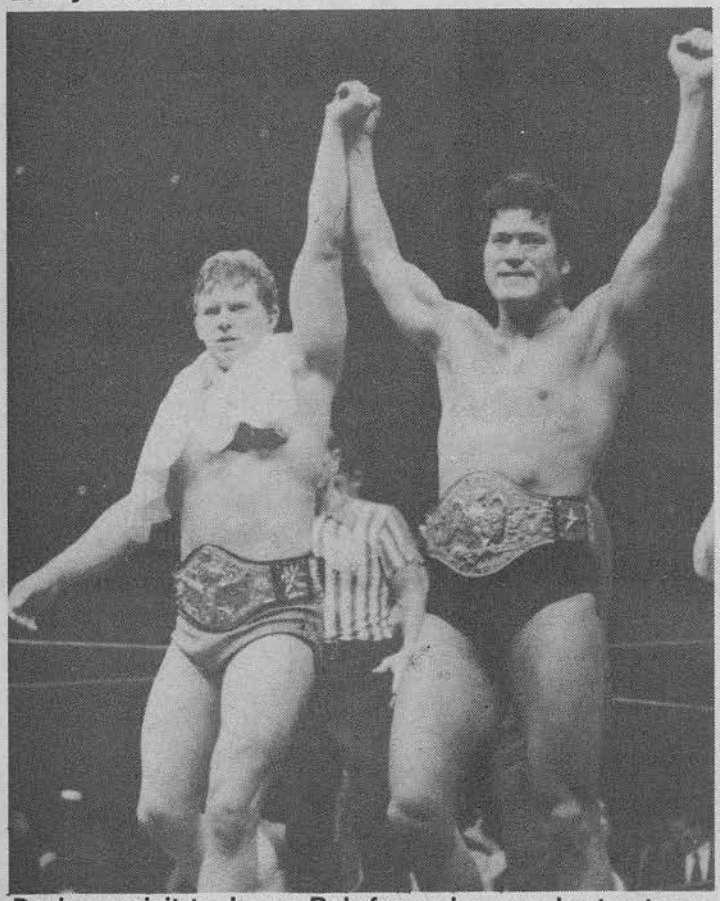
W.W.F. CHAMPION BOB BACKLUND - IN AND OUT OF THE SQUARED CIRCLE

Photo Feature By Mike Gratchner

In a St. Louis gym workout Bob Backlund pressed Leapin' Lanny overhead with ease.



Of course the W.W.F. Champion also spends quite a bit of time training with weights.



During a visit to Japan Bob formed a popular tag team combination with Antonio Inoki.

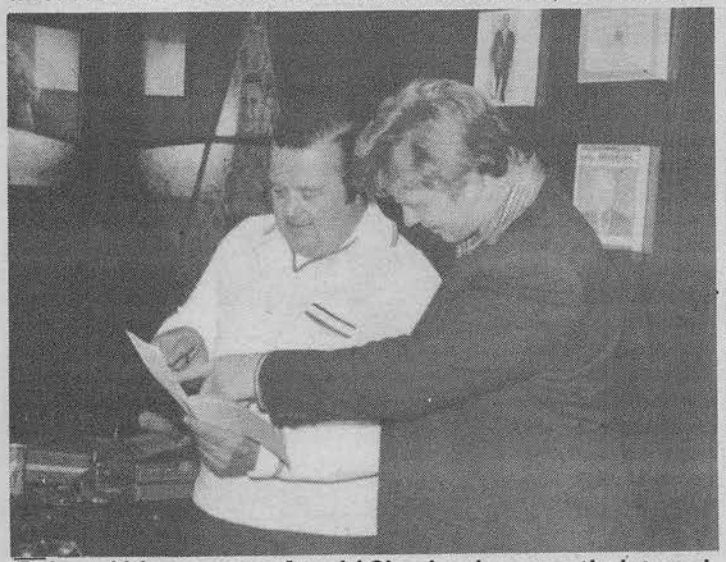
When in New York City Bob took time to be fitted for a new suit by his tailor, Barney Guidice.

Another clothing stop for Mr. Backlund is to visit Milt Arerback to pick up some new ties.

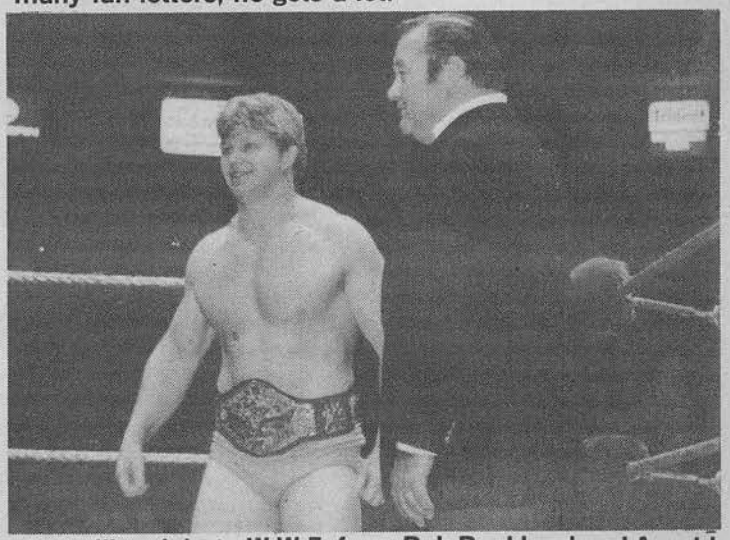
Another frequent stop in New York is with Tom Minichiello at The Mid City Health Club, where Bob works-out.

The Champ poses with his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Normal Backlund at home in Princeton, Minnesota.

Here we see Bob and his wife Corky working on some his many fan letters, he gets a lot!



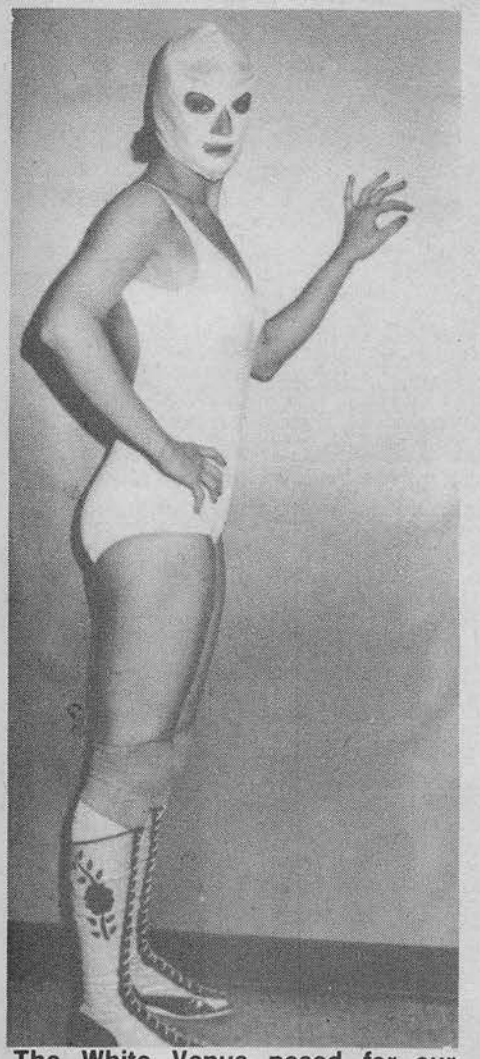
Bob and his manager Arnold Skaaland go over their travel schedules and upcoming title defenses.



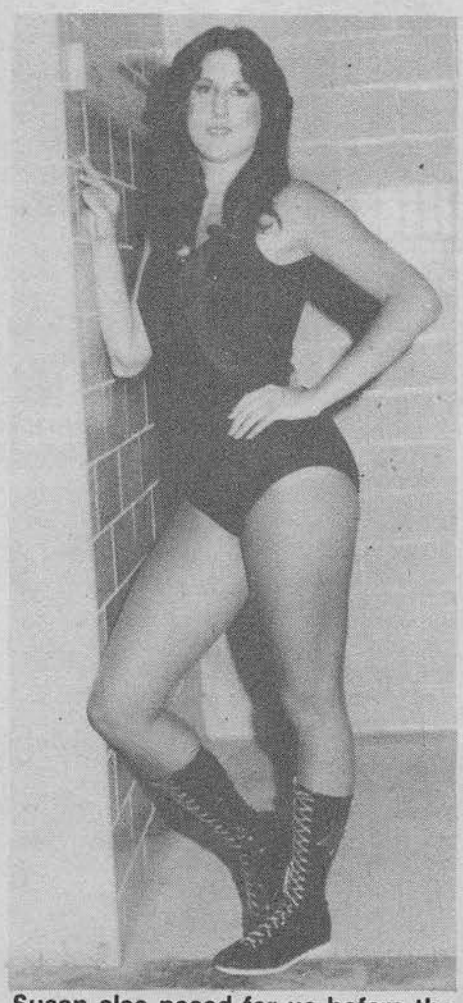
A familiar sight to W.W.F. fans, Bob Backlund and Arnold Skaaland await the start of another title match.

SUSAN STERLING'S WILD BATTLE WITH THE MYSTERIOUS WHITE VENUS

Photo Feature By Gene Gordon



The White Venus posed for our readers before battling Susan Sterling.

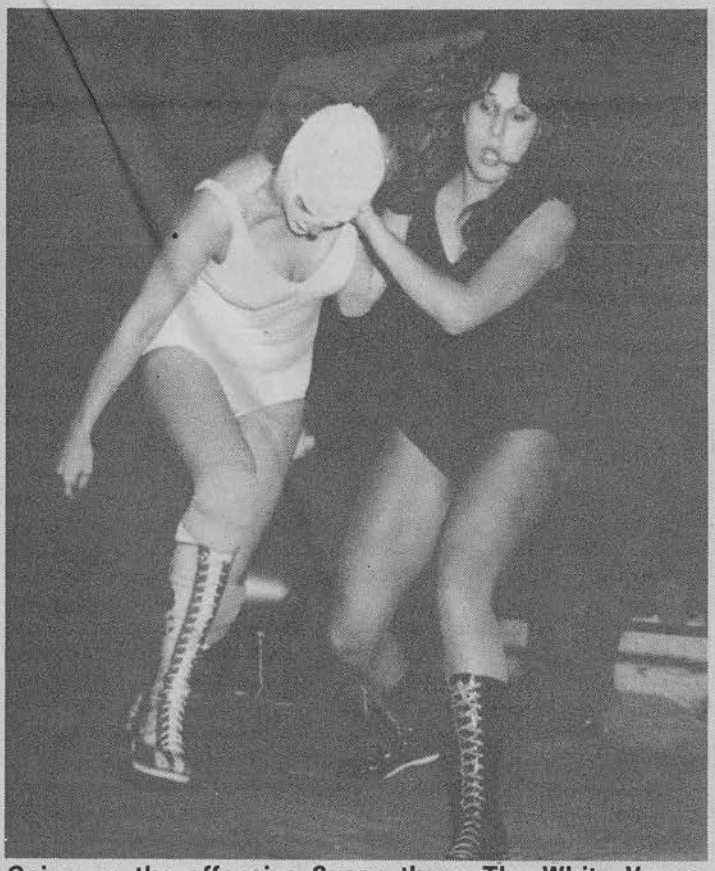


Susan also posed for us before the Hendersonville, N.C. match against The White Venus.

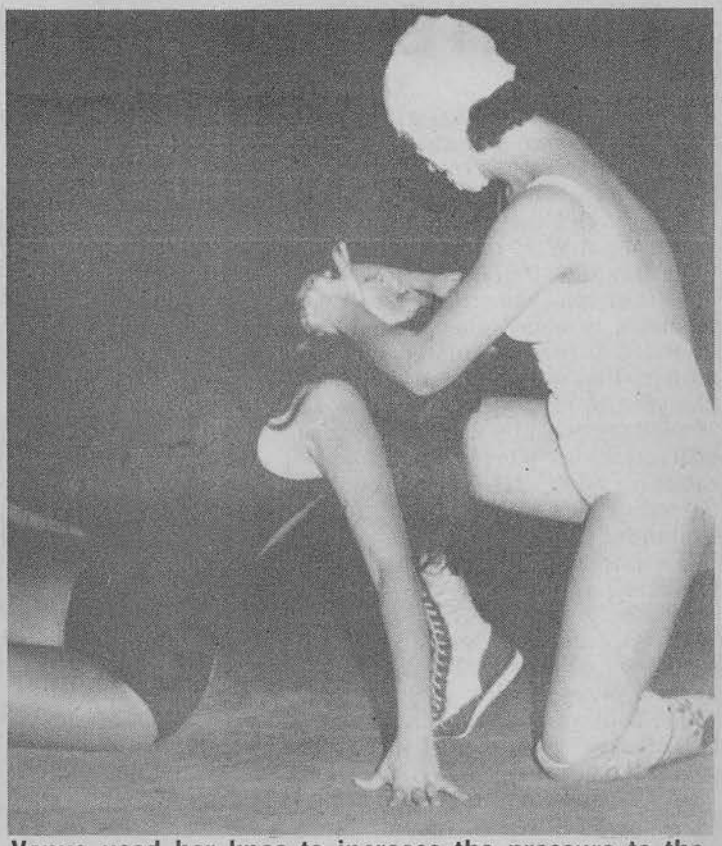
Sterling went for a flying mare when Venus applied a hammerlock early in the match.

The masked lady wrestler of mystery continued her attack with a front facelock.

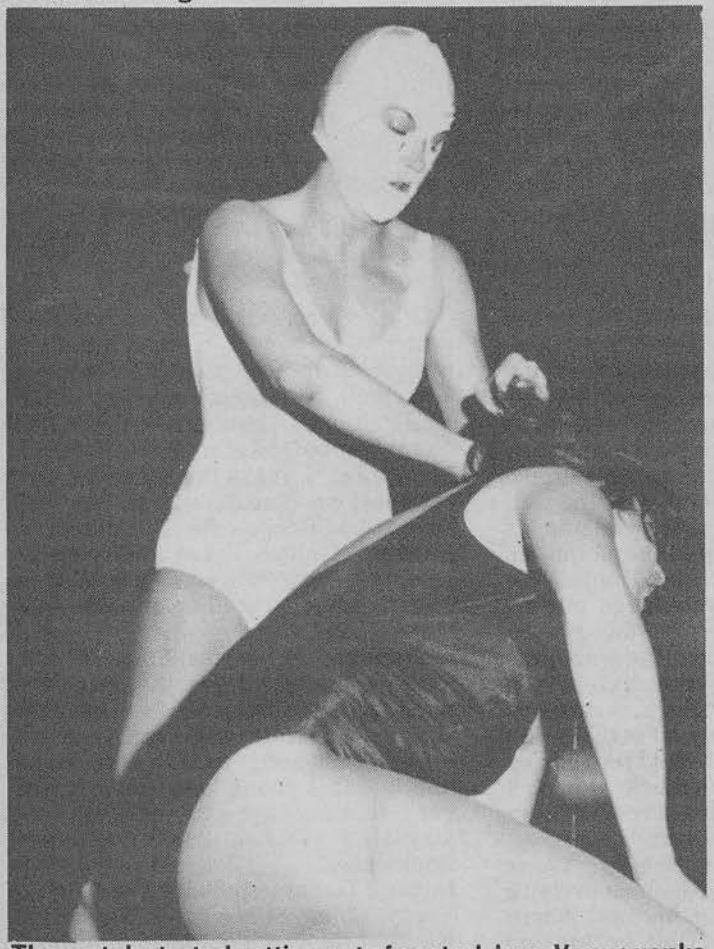
Susan was able to get a quick reversal and applied a hammerlock of her own.



Going on the offensive Susan threw The White Venus across the ring.



Venus used her knee to increase the pressure to the chinlock she applied to her rival.



The match started getting out of control, here Venus yanks Sterling to her feet hair first.

Next she started bitting, shortly thereafter both girls were disqualified for their rough tactics.

AN INTERVIEW WITH LORD JAMES BLEARS

By Kathy Dowd

When the president has a problem he calls in the vice president. When an actor or actress has trouble finding a job they call in their agent. When a teacher is sick they call in a substitute. When the A.W.A. has a problem with wrestlers they call in a trouble-shooting ref and the best in the business is none other than former wrestler turned promoter/ref, Lord James Blears. It was this writers pleasure to obtain an interview with Mr. Blears recently in Denver when he officiated a World Championship match with Nick Bockwinkel defending his A.W.A. title against contender Greg Gagne.

Q: How long were you active as a professional wrestler?

A: Forty years, believe it or not! That is counting this year too. As a wrestler I started in 1940, so really it's been 42 years.

Q: Did you have any amateur training before entering the professional ranks?

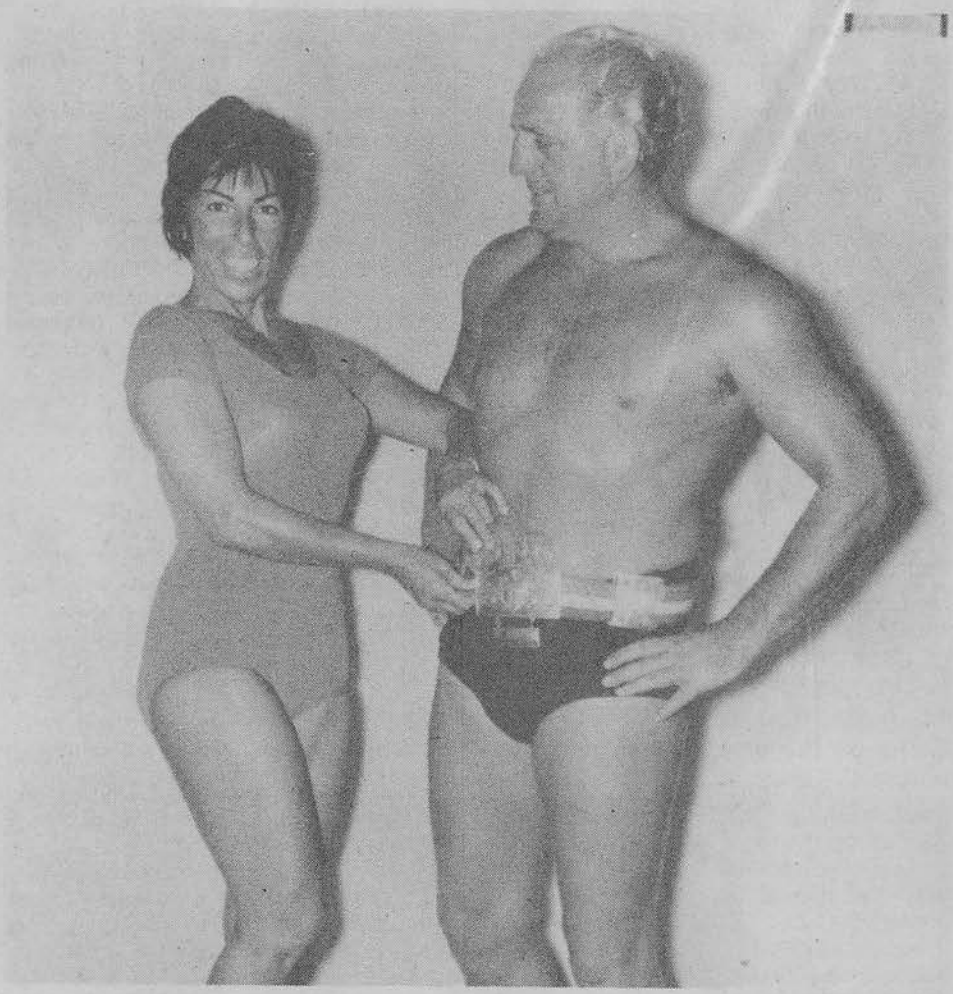
A: I was the amateur champion in England.

Q: Can you tell us a little about your amateur background?

A: The only thing that they really had at that time was the YMCA. I was quite good as a wrestler, but I was more of a swimmer than wrestler. I was the champion swimmer in England, that is the breast stroke swimming champion. Later I was picked to go to the Olympics but the war (World War II) stopped it. In 1939, I was chosen to go to the trials for the Olympics, but then received notification that due to war hostilities they would be canceled until the conclusion of the war. An interesting note is that the next Olympics were held in 1948, that is the Olympics that Verne Gagne was in. He was later to become a dear friend of mine, although we wrestled many years ago against each other and were real heavy rivals in the ring. You attain a degree of friendship with someone who is a great athlete and great sportsman.

Q: Who were some of your better well known opponents in the ring that you wrestled?

A: Well, this is before your time. I'm 58 years old, you might as well know my age. I was born 1923, August 13 in a coal mining town in England. I went to the same gymnasium that Billy Robinson's father and uncle did and wrestled them before Billy started wrestling. I received a lot of training that Robinson went through also,



In this 1961 photo Lord James Blears posed with his wife Lee, the belt that he was wearing was "THE RING," belt symbol of the Hawaiian Heavyweight Championship, which he had won from King Curtis Iaukea.

which was called THE SNAKE PIT in Wiggins. But anyway, you asked me a question about some well known top wrestling opponents. For the older ones, the most famous one of all was the man that I wrestled all over the world and we held record crowd numbers in gate attendance, the well known Gorgeous George. Him and his valet vs. Lord James Blears and his manager, Captain Leslie Homes. We were the biggest attraction in the world at that time. I did wrestle Jimmy Londos however he was quite old at the time I wrestled him. I remember it was Phoenix, Arizona in 1947. He was ready to quit at that time. To tell you the truth he had retired and then made a comeback when I wrestled him. I also wrestled Ray Steele, another old time wrestler. There was also Vic Christy. These were men who were just about to retire when I was just starting out. There was Joe Scarpello in Ohio in 1949 and 1950. He is super both in the ring and outside the ring.

Q: Can you recall any one certain match that you can really vividly remember in your mind?

A: Well, the biggest man I wrestled was Primo Carnera, who was a world champion boxing star. I wrestled him quite a bit. I guess the man who was the most spectacular in my day was Argentina Rocca. He had his first match in Dallas, Texas after coming here from Argentina and wrestled in 1948. Some of the other colorful ones were Lou Thesz, when he was champion. There was Paul Boesch, who by the way, was the man who introduced me to my present wife of 35 years of marriage. He was a lifeguard in New York and I came from England and met this young lady and married her and it's a happy 35 years for us. I wrestled Yukon Eric, Warren Bockwinkel - Nick Bockwinkel's father, Danny McShane, Wild Red Berry, Count Billy Varga. You know, Kathy, I figured it out one night that I had 11,000 matches. I climbed UP

AND DOWN the wrestling stairs 11,000 DIFFERENT TIMES. CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT???

Q: What was the funniest thing that ever happened to Lord James Blears that is wrestling related?

A: The funniest thing that ever happened to me, let me think about this for a moment. Well, Gene Kiniski and I were world tag team champions for the N.W.A. and this was in 1953-56. We had some interesting incidents but it's got to be funny. Here's one for you, it was in Buffalo, New York and I was wrestling against The Great Togo. My manager came into the ring with his monocle and inspected the ring, which was normal for him to do. He was standing there giving the Winston Churchill victory sign to the fans, it was summer time, and someone threw a large tomato in the ring and it hit him right in his monocle eye. By some freak accident it didn't knock the monocle out of his eye but there was red coming down his face. The captain never moved, never blinked, but instead said, "Jolly good shot, you should have been a cricket player." To me that was quite funny. The fan got quite annoyed because the Captain didn't get annoyed but praised him instead, which the fan didn't like one little bit.

Q: Which titles did you hold in professional wrestling and which did you enjoy the most?

A: The most was the first one when I defeated Wild Red Berry for the Light-heavyweight Championship in Phoenix, Arizona in 1947. There were light heavyweight divisions back in those days, which you most likely don't know about, do you?

Q: Oh, yes, I do know about them even though that wasn't in my day.

A: In those days there was a little heavyweight division which was about 150 to 200. In those days I was a lot lighter. I started out at about 175 and then got heavier. Well, I held that title for quite sometime and then I got heavier and had to move up into the heavyweight division. Of course, there was the N.W.A. World Tag Team Title with Gene Kiniski. There was the Hawaiian Ring Magazine Gold Heavyweight belt and the Alaskan Fur Belt. You know it was made of gold and fur. I defended it against Mr. Moto and Stanislaus Zbysko. I won the tournament in Alaska in the early Fifties.

Q: Since you've wrestled quite a number of years what are some of the changes you have seen in wrestlers of years ago and wrestlers of today?

A: Well, there was the weight change but all wrestlers throughout time, as when they begin, train very hard. They work as hard as they can and train their body to stay in top shape. Let's go back just before my time, as a wrestler. Jim Londos was about 180 pounds and tha was heavy. Even boxers like Jack Dempsey was around 185. They called these men supermen at 180, 190. They were considered giants both in wrestling and boxing. Then in my era we got some real well built and tough wrestlers at 230 and 248 pounds. My best weight was 238 pounds that I could get to. Today they have men like Hulk Hogan and you know he's like two normal people put together, AND HE'S IN GOOD SHAPE. There's Don Leo Johnathan, Andre the Giant, who is really an exceptional person; Jerry Blackwell. Like many of the men who look fat, Jerry is really very limber and loose. He's strong. You just can't look at them, you have to lock up with them in the ring and find out JUST HOW TOUGH THEY REALLY ARE.

Q: You're still in the profession today but now you are a ref. How does it feel to officiate instead of wrestle? Did you find it hard in switching over?

A: It was very trumatic for me, as it saddened me when I started to feel all the injuries that had occurred to me as a wrestler. It also made me realize that, as we say here in America, I couldn't cut the mustard anymore as a professional wrestler. I could have still gone on for a few maybe three more years in the ring. I could have struggled on but I would have been getting injured more and more. So I left IN A BLAZE OF GLORY, on the top, and went to Hawaii and helped promote there and did the t.v. narration there for 18 years. I also take wrestlers to Japan, I am the president of the Pacific Wrestling Federation which covers all of the Pacific and all the Orient, Hong Kong, Australia. A lot of the American wrestlers go there. Nick Bockwinkel was there recently, but of course he goes all over. He went to Germany too. Verne Gagne goes to Japan. I was with him in Japan a few years ago. The match that was chosen as the match of the year in 1981 by the media there was Verne's match with Giant Baba. Which, of course, is a great credit to Verne.

Q: How does it feel being referred to as "troubleshooting" ref?

A: Well, you're not as popular as what you would like to be. Even though you think you may be going in as a big star, a former wrestler, or having been seen on ABC Wide World of Sports, like I am several times a year, it doesn't really mean anything. You have to lay down the law. You can not favor the local hero, or the man they hate. You don't know what has been happening. You're going in to ref it 50/50. 100% to each person. I mean you have to be just as strict with one as you are with the other one. But they do respect you and your decisions as a special ref.

Q: Since you were a promoter in Hawaii, did you find any particular types of wrestlers that gave you a harder time than others?

A: There was a famous promoter in Los Angeles named Jules Strongbow and he once told me that any great attraction in any field would always have problems. It might not be a bad problem, but they would have problems and they might be a little off the wall at times. I didn't understand what he meant by that, but after I got into the world of promotion I soon found out. Any person who had the natural talent to be a great wrestler would soon have or come to have some type of problem, be it something like they wanted a first class hotel room or all expenses paid. Of course, any great athlete has this kind of wants and needs too.

Q: Tell us about your involvment with the Japanese wrestling.

A: The first group of American wrestlers that I took to Japan was in 1956 for a promoter named Ricky Dozan, and he was killed in 1961.

Q: Who is Lord James Blears, the person away from the wrestling business? What is he like? What are his interests?

A: I love to tell people about my very wonderful family. My wife is the champion tennis player in Hawaii for the 50 and over. I have four very lovely children who all have excelled in sports. They've been champion surfers or paddle canoeing champions. I have a very wonderful and loveable little four year old grandson who is going to be a champion some day. And one of my biggest honors is telling everyone how proud I am of all of them. It may sound like bragging and that's just what it is. They're all great.

Q: Isn't it true that you do some work with the SUPERSTARS competetion when they are in Hawaii working with the athletes?

A: Very true. I am the official for the tug of war with the SUPERSTARS and have worked with ABC Sports for the past three years, and I love it. However, there has been some talk that maybe the SUPERSTARS won't be seen this upcoming season on ABC. So we will all just have to wait and see.

Q: Wasn't your daughter in the ladies competetion one year?

A: Yes, my daughter Laura is a champion surfer from Hawaii and participated in it. I was really proud of her.

Q: I want to very much thank you for this very interesting and informative interview that we've had. Thank you.

A: You're welcome, it's not often I get to speak with a nice lady writer like you.

THE DICK "BULLDOG" BROWER STORY

By Michael O'Hara

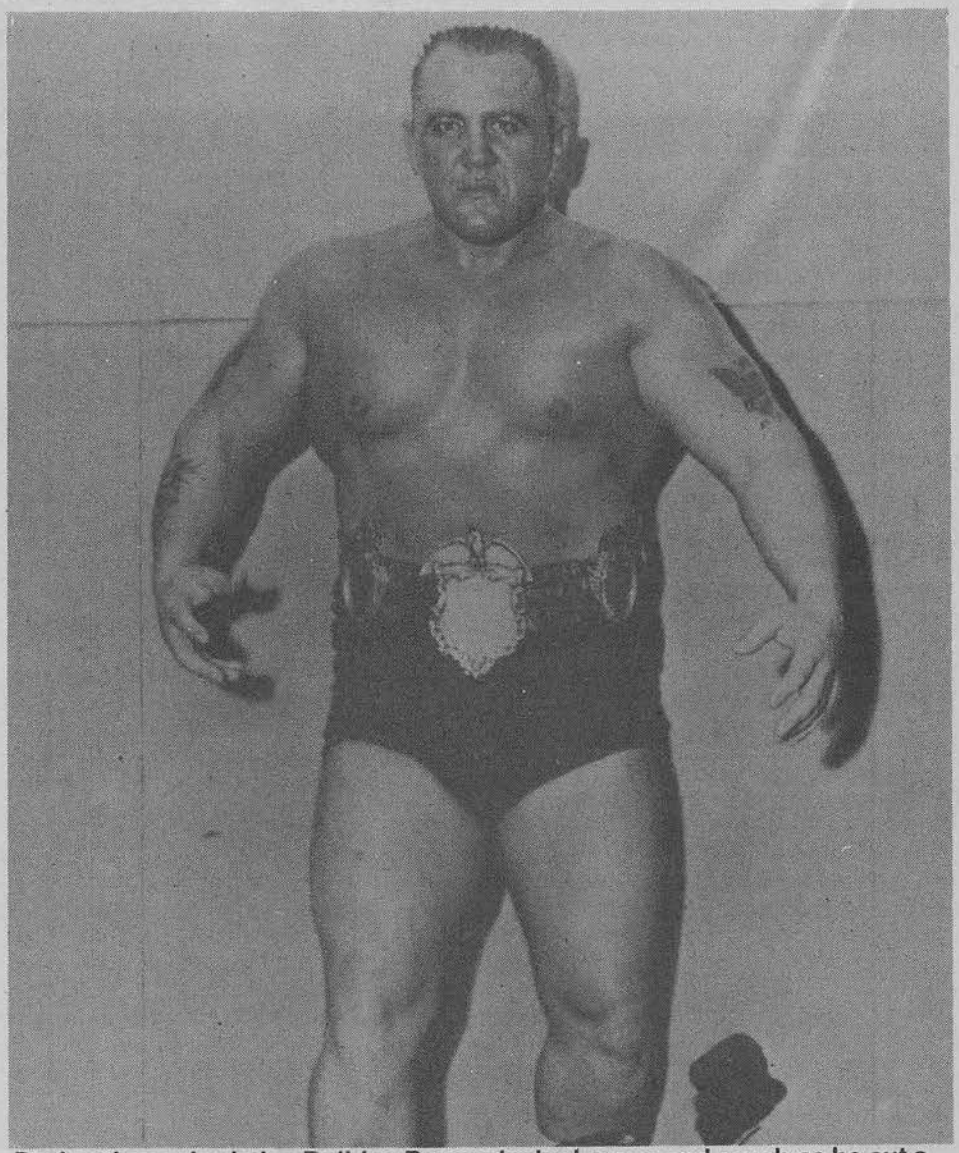
In today's world of sports we so often speak of athletes in terms of stars or superstars, but we have almost lost understanding of the true meanings of these words. When I look for a definition of the word "legendary" I look no further than Dick "the Bulldog" Brower. I can't think of a more appropriate wrestler to use the term on.

Right from the start of Dick's illustrious career, there has been non-stop action and excitement. When asked about his beginnings in the sport Dick said, "Well, my early years were a very formative period in my career. I found out very quickly that you don't get ahead in this game by being Mr. Good Guy all the time. In wrestling, hate makes the turnstiles click and I would much rather be on the people's hate list than win any popularity poll. It's much more lucrative."

Being on the people's hate list never seems to be much of a problem for Dick with his arrogant attitude. During his long undefeated streak in Canada (which to my knowledge is the longest in Canadian wrestling history) he defeated every top name star in the sport as promoters constantly brought in big name talent to try and topple this human tank. Yukon Eric, Whipper Watson, Tony Marino, Johnny Valentine, Gorilla Monsoon, Illio DePaolo and Jim Hady all fell short of stopping the tenacious Bulldog.

On June 26, 1962 it appeared that Brower's streak would finally come to an abrupt halt at the hands of a young Italian strongman, who was certainly making a name for himself in the sport at a very rapid pace. Dick on this night in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada was to begin a never ending feud with Bruno Sammartino.

The match had such box office appeal that it was held in a local outdoor baseball stadium to accommodate a huge crowd. Both young grapplers had quite a lot at stake in this two of three fall main event, but it was Brower, with his uncanny knack of overcoming all odds that gained the pinfall in the first round by pummeling Bruno to the mat in 12 minutes. Bruno, showing he is made of stern stuff indeed, came back in the second fall to get a submission out of the mighty Brower. It was in the third fall, however, that Dick proved to all in attendance that he "must" win at all cost. Bruno was near the ropes as Dick used his head as a human battering ram to send Sammartino through the ropes and almost into the second row of ringside seats. Referee "Tiger" Tasker tolled the count and Dick Brower gained his most impressive win up until that time.



During the early sixties Bulldog Brower looked mean and rough as he cut a path through everybody placed in a Canadian ring with him.

Dick's brutality continued in Canada and on August 3 of the same year in Toronto, he caused a full scale riot involving himself, Tony Marino and over 100 ringside fans. The two gladiators battled their way out of the ring and onto the dressing room walk ramp, where the mob quickly tried to even the odds for their hero, Marino. The police, the ushers, and even promoter Frank Tunney finally eased the fan's back into a milder level of revolution, but not until Brower had finished off Marino via a count out and headed back to the dressing room. Even a heated situation such as this was turned into an opportunity by the crafty Bulldog.

This year (1962) proved to be a time of great success for Dick as he not only gained the International tag team titles with "Sweet Daddy" Siki, but also won the NWA World Title from "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers, if only for a brief two minutes and nineteen seconds! The match, which occured in February 1962, saw Rogers in a pinfall position with his foot draped over the bottom ring rope. Referee Joe Solub unaware of Rogers' situation counted to three and handed the belt over to Brower. The incident of the leg on the ropes was brought to the attention of the referee by pro-wrestler, Jim Hady. Solub then signaled for the bell and the match to continue, but by this time Brower was celebrating in the dressing room. The referee began a count on Brower, who didn't know that the title would soon be taken back by

virtue of a count out!

This massive native of Delaware is no "stupid jock" by any means as he graduated from Delaware University and had plans of being a chiropractor. I guess being the wild man that he is made breaking bones more fun that healing them, so a career in prowrestling was inevitable. Dick at 5' 10" and weighing roughly 275 pounds was no push over in the ring and much of his success can be attributed to his immense strength.

On the subject of training Dick stated, "Well, right now I'm not really into that heavy power lifting that I used to do a while back, but compared to the average wrestler I still lift some heavy iron. Let's see I used to do 550 pounds in the bench press and over 600 pounds in the squat with plenty of repetitions and sets. You need plenty of power in this sport and besides I always loved the feeling you get after doing a really good work out. There is no greater feeling on earth and I recommend it to all young guys."

After a very long stay in Canada, Dick went on a world wide tour which included Australia, New Zealand and several other far off lands. "Well I like the country down there and I also like the big money there, too. They're all nice people as far as human beings are concerned and I very much prefer them to all the "undesirable" elements and all these characters... and creeps...and bums...and idiots...and jerks that you have at arenas here in the United States."

After meeting and defeating the best in the lands down under, he ventured into the Mid-West territory and literally stole the Shiek's thunder with his own brand of rough house ring antics. Dick really became well known in the wrestling world from his tour of this area and also had a love/hate relationship with the fans as he wrestled everybody regardless of the fact that they were rulebreakers or fan favorites. "Oh, yeah, I took on everyone in Michigan, Ohio and the surrounding states. As long as it was a good pay day, I'd wrestle anyone, anyplace, at anytime", said the Bulldog.

From the Mid-West, he went straight to the east coast and threw challenges to WWF champion, Bruno Sammartino and then his predecessor, Pedro Morales, but the WWF title was not to be his, although he came so very close on many occasions. Dick, however, did gain solid victories over Chief Jay Strongbow, Sonny King, Tony Marino, Gorilla Monsoon and several other wrestling "biggies". "I've got to admit, Bruno Sammartino gave me my toughest battles anywhere. We had plenty of bloody brawls and I gave Bruno many a lump and many a bump that he'll never forget. As far as I'm concerned, it'll never be over between me and Bruno."

Here we Dick using a headlock to wear down his opponent before scoring a recent W.W.F. ring victory.

Dick later returned to Canada and gained the Canadian Heavyweight Championship. He defended the title all over and turned back the challenges of Angelo Mosca, Baron Von Raschke, Terry Yorkston, Carlos "Colon" Belafonte, Hartford Love and "Ariba" Luis Martinez. Fans didn't know whether to cheer him or jeer him as he took on every contender and proved to be a fighting Canadian champion.

In 1975 Dick signed up with the IWA and brought wrestling into a new "golden era". Shortly after entering the promotion, he trounced the deadly heart punch specialist, Ox Baker for the coveted IWA North American Heavyweight Championship. Once this prestigious title was strapped around his ample waist, the contenders just jumped out of nowhere. Dino Bravo, Thunderbolt, Argentina Apollo, Gino Brito, Cowboy Bob Ellis, Nelson Royal and Mil Mascaras, the IWA Heavyweight Champion tried to take Brower's belt, but all failed.

"Everybody and I mean EVERY-BODY was out to get my North American Heavyweight Title, but the only belt they got was a belt in the teeth", chuckled the Bulldog.

The IWA met quite a few obstacles and eventually set up shop in the MidAtlantic area of the United States. From there the promotion fell upon hard times as most of it's major stars soon departed including the recognized champion, Mil Mascaras. A tournament was soon held to determine a new IWA title holder and Dick edged out the rest of the pack to attain this great honor. If this was not enough, Dick settled his differences with arch-rival, the Mighty Igor to upset Kurt Von Hess and Karl Von Stroheim for the IWA Tag Team Championship! Those long years of bitter hatred for each other eventually cost Brower and Igor the tag titles, but he held both the North American and heavyweight titles until the IWA's final days.

In 1978 Dick returned to the Michigan-Ohio wrestling area, but the fan's saw a "new" Dick Brower. Entering the ring at 235 lbs. and sporting a new "perm" hair style, fans had to look very close to realize that this was the very same man who appeared in their area several years earlier. He quickly flew to the top of the ratings by virtue of his victories over such stars as Luis Martinez, Crusher Verdu, Tony Parisi, Tim Hampton, Nelson Royal and another "Bulldog" by the name of Don Kent. After several attempts of dethroning the United States Champion, the Shiek, who saved himself each time by getting disqualified, Dick went in search of greener pastures.

No sooner did he leave the Mid-West, when he was contacted by a small, but growing promotion in West Virginia named Continental Wrestling Congress. Under the management of the late "Great" Scott Howard, who was at one time the TV commentator for the Roller Games. Dick won a tournament to attain their heavyweight title. After beating all the opponents in this promotion, he retired the championship.

He then returned to New York City to compete in the rings of Vega International Wrestling Promotions, where he was recognized as the U.S.A. Champion. After several successful title defenses and preparing to team up with Dr. Jerry Graham, he was contacted to appear in Australia for quite a hefty sum, so off he went once again in search of fame and fortune. That's exactly what he found as he defeated Ron Miller for the Australian Heavyweight Championship and then whipped King Curtis for the Brass Knuckles title.

Does professional wrestling have a huge monetary reward you ask? Well, Dick sports a beautiful 8 karat diamond in a 24 karat gold setting the ring has been conservatively appraised at $35,000.00. Dick keeps track of time with a magnificent solid gold watch, which is valued well over $15,000.00. At one time, Dick owned a huge farm outside of New Market, Ontario, Canada and all of his clothes are tailored especially for him. I guess this erases any doubts you may have had.

In search of even more BIG pay days, Dick returned to the WWF, where he tried to unseat the current champion, Bob Backlund. In the process, he did gain victories over Tony Garea, Larry Zbyszko, Chief Jay Strongbow, S.D. Jones, Dominic Denucci and giving Ivan Putski his first pinfall loss in the WWF, after competing in the area for over four years.

Once again on the move, Dick made a tour of the Carribean in 1980, where he squashed the likes of the Invador, Carlos Colon, Mighty Igor, Luke Graham and others. Dick also successfully teamed with "Crazy" Luke and Gorgeous George Jr. while on this tour.

J.J. Dillion, who was then managing in the Texas area, heard of Dick's unpredictable ring style and signed him to appear in the LONE STAR STATE, where he defeated the likes of Pak Song, Sweet Brown Sugar, Don Diamond and pinned Texas champion David Von Erich in a non title bout.

Dick returned to the WWF for a short period in 1981 and quickly left for a series of battles in Nigeria. On January 30, 1981, a crowd of almost 40,000 people turned out to see Dick put to the test by meeting his arch rival, the Mighty Igor.

The reason there was so much interest in this match is the old IWA tapings were being shown in the Carribean, in which Brower was being constantly chased by the Polish strongman for the North American Title. Igor has become nothing short of say, the fans, who sat upon a dirt floor in the outdoor National Stadium Main Bowl in Kano, Nigeria, were indeed lucky to witness one of the all time hottest feuds in wrestling history.

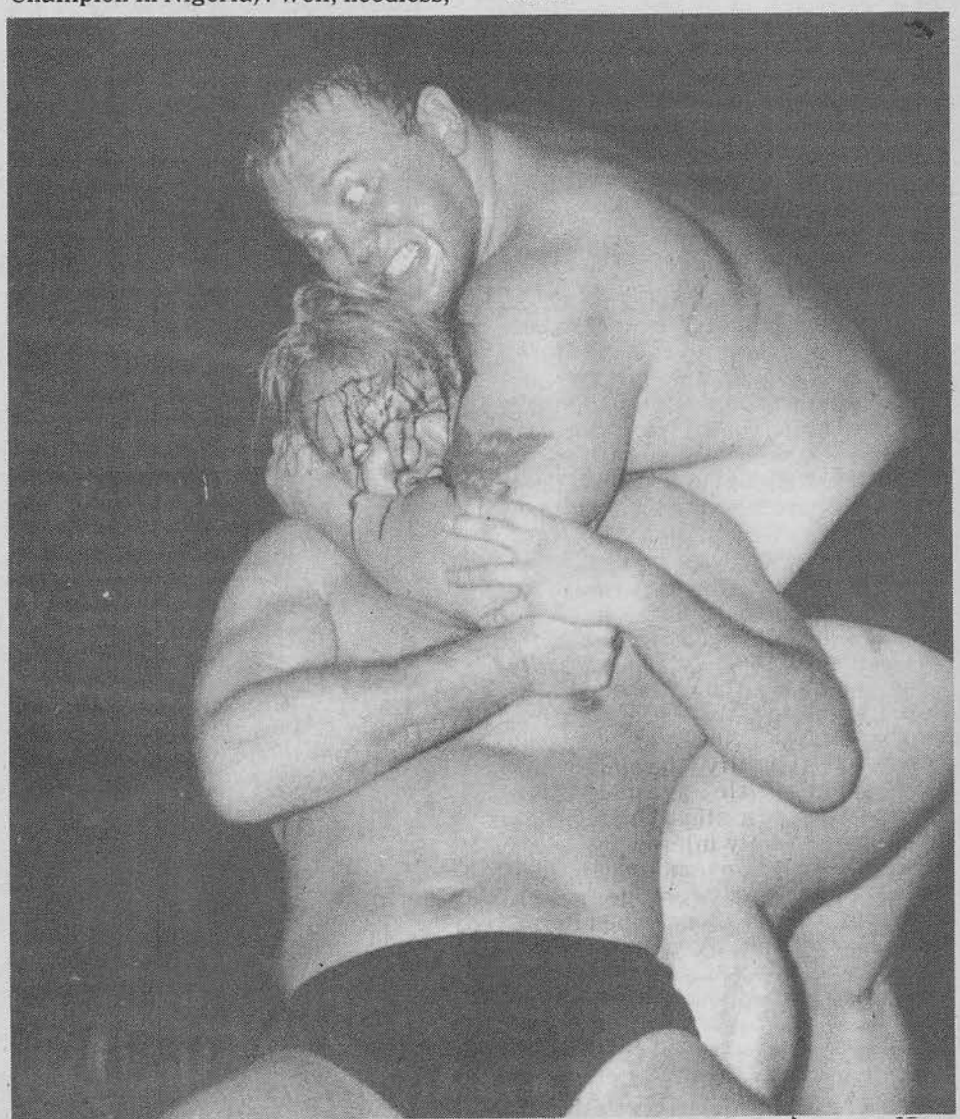
Dick made his way back to the WWF once again where he teamed with several partners to try and unseat Tony Garea and Rick Martel, who were the champions at the time. Forming alliances with such men as Angelo Mosca, Larry Sharp and the masked Executioner was not enough to tag away the crowns from two of the most popular young men who have ever wrestled on the east coast.

At the same time, Dick tried to maul his way past Pedro Morales and add the Intercontinental Championship to his long list of titles, but Pedro was able to escape the tactics of the wrestling man mountain.

After gaining victories over Rick a national hero in Nigeria and Power Mike Promotions soon signed the two in a non-title bout (Brower is still recognized as the North American Champion in Nigeria). Well, needless, McGraw, Curt Hennig, Baron Mikel Scicluna, Manuel Soto, S.D. Jones and Ron Shaw, Dick was given a grudge match with Bruno Sammartino in the summer of 1981 in Wildwood, N.J.. This would be one of Bruno's final battles before his retirement and neither man let the fans down as the battle was a classic from beginning to end.

1982 started off with a big tour of Southeast Asia with Dick displaying his "Brower Power" in such places as Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Singapore. Other top name international wrestlers who appeared on this tour were: Johnny Powers, Bobo Brazil, Tiger Jeet Singh, Chin Lee, Akio Sato and Yoshihiro Momota.

What is in store for Dick "the Bulldog" Brower in the coming months ahead? Well, I guess I could best answer this question with a variation of an old joke I once heard. Where can a 270 pound wildman be found wrestling next? The answer, of course, is ANY WHERE HE WANTS TO!!!



The Bulldog seemed completely out of control when he bloodied the legendary Johnny Valentine during one of their many epic brawls.

INTRODUCING TONY "THE TIGER" FALK

By Michael Felker

Throughout the wrestling world, more than ever, young wrestlers are making their marks. They are enthusiastic, ambitious and have desires and dreams to reach that ultimate goal, THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP. Twenty-two year old Tony Falk is no exception.

Born in Paducah, Kentucky, Tony at the early age of fourteen received his first taste of the wrestling world, when he became a ring boy for All-Star Wrestling then located in Paducah. He recalls the more memorable experiences were shooting the breeze and sparing with the wrestlers. He remembers in detail stories that occurred with such mat stars as Golden Boy Paul Christy, Plow Boy Gaint Frazer, Cowboy Frankie Lane and others. Although these wrestlers all influenced him, it was Gentleman Saul Weingeroff that is most responsible for his wrestling career. Weingeroff took him under his wing and treated him as if he were his own son. Not only did Weingeroff teach him the rounds of professional wrestling he also, more important, taught him to be a man.

Presently Falk is wrestling with the ICW out of Lexington, Kentucky.

Though Tony Falk has yet to reach the spotlight he shows the potential of someday being a truly great wrestler. He knows more manuvers than most veterans, but he still has yet to achieve the experience that could propel him to stardom. He has been compared to the Bob Backlund's All-American Boy image. Then others say he has a Roddy Piper smile. But he is Tony Falk. He has his own style of wrrestling and he is determined to succeed. "I thank God for giving me the ability to wrestle, I love it. All my life I wanted to grow up and be WORLD CHAMPION," Tony recently told this writer.

IN DEFENSE OF STEVE REGAL

(A Letter To The Editor)

In response to the article "Family Feud Ends in Oregon" (issue Number 81) I feel that something should be said in defense of Steve Regal.

Your article was for the most part accurate in recording the feud between "Playboy" Buddy Rose and Matt Borne, as it was in recording the events leading to the breakup of the tag team and friendship of Steve Regal and Matt Borne.

But there are a couple of things that should be made clear:

1-On Saturday, November 7th, 1981 Steve successfully defended his heavyweight title against Mike Masters. During this match his shoulder was badly injured.

2-On Tuesday, November 10th, 1981 there was the big grudge match between Rose and Borne. When Borne took this match he asked Steve to keep Mike Masters and Stan Stasiak from interfering in this match. Steve was at ringside, with his injured shoulder, but only because Masters and Stasiak were interfering.

So in all fairness how can Borne say "This is all your fault!" and blame Steve because he (Matt) lost the match.

Due to continued problems with his injured shoulder Steve returned the heavyweight belt to the wrestling commission. He went to his home state of Indiana to let his shoulder heal. When he came back on tour he got into a series of grudge matches with Borne. The last of these being a loser leave town match - street fight style. During this match Steve's shoulder was re-injured and Matt won the match forcing Steve to leave the area.

The fans here in the Pacific Northwest know what kind of man Steve Regal is. He is well liked and respected by the people here. He in return gives that respect and friendship back to us. His loyalty to his friends and to the sport is beyond question. He is the one who should be saying "This is all your fault, Matt Borne!"

Whatever the future holds for Steve Regal he will always have a home in the hearts of the people here. Good luck, Steve!

Enola Wiebke, Springfield, Oregon

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THE NEW ZEALAND WRESTLING SCENE

By Dave Cameron

1982 has now opened its season and looks like some interesting talent is lined up.

Baron Von Krupp, also known as KILLER KARL KRUPP, is currently creating some excitement here with his vicious claw hold to the head. In the space of two weeks he has defeated MARK LEWIN, SAMOAN JOE and STEVE RICKARD with the deadly hold.

MARK LEWIN who improves with age is an all time great who is in tremendous shape. Still living in the gym Mark has years of wrestling ahead of him. Mark just arrived from two visits to Japan, a visit to Hong Kong, and a quick trip to Samoa and a visit to Honolulu. All in the space of a few short weeks since he left New Zealand.

While in Hawaii Mark found time to visit his old ring foe KING CURTIS who is now disabled.

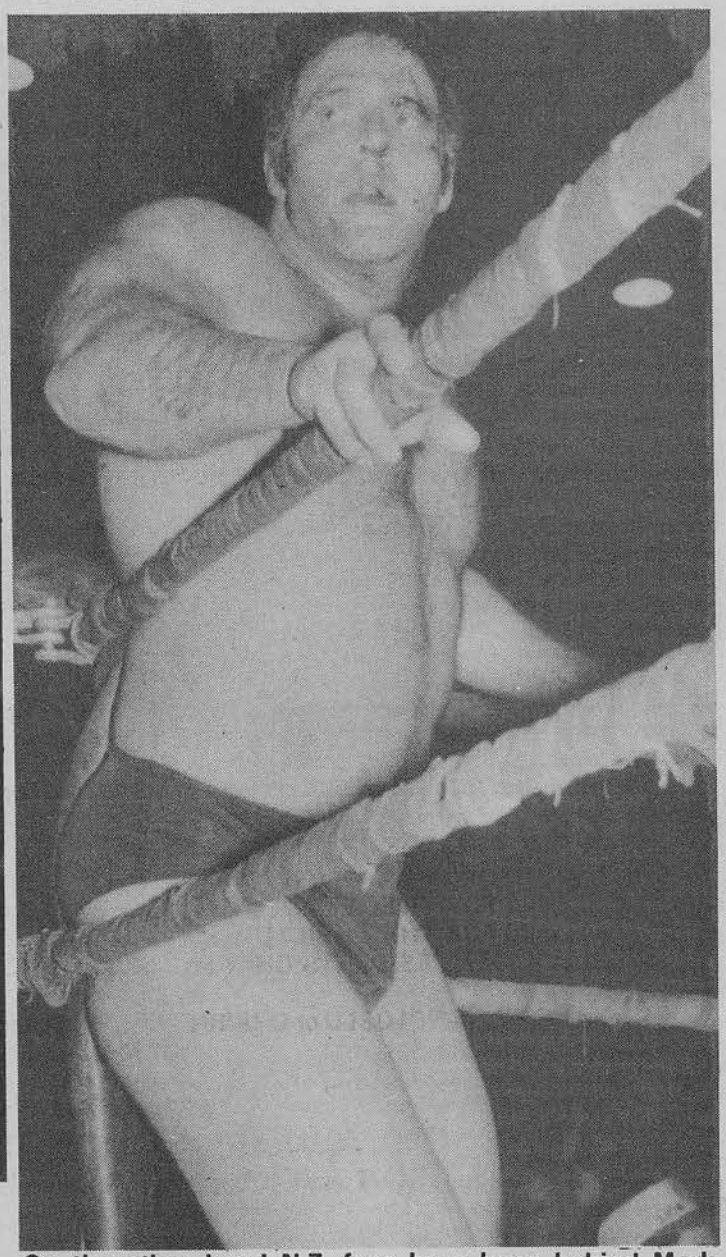
Two masked stars are currently here. The ASSASSIN back after a highly successful season last year, and from Purto Rico The MASKED AVENGER a beautifully proportioned super star who looks like being the star of our season. The Avenger is a high flyer who is already showing the crowds some beautiful aerial moves. Everyone loves him and he is certain to be a success.

Due in soon from overseas are The MALTESE FALCON and from Hawaii the super-heavyweight star KING TOR KAMATO.

Local boys having big success are SAMOAN JOE, who is still awaiting his American visa, JOHN GARCIA who is wrestling hard and often this year and in tremendous shape. He has given KARL KRUPP plenty to think about in their clashes.

JACK LAKI, a comparitive newcomer to New Zealand rings has seen action in Japan, Singapore and Samoa. MERV FORTUNE, our only active Maori star looks in the best shape of his life. TOMMY CHEUNG, a young Samoan boy looks like a star of the future.

Killer Karl Krupp is fastly proving to be the most hated wrestler in New Zealand rings.



On the other hand N.Z. fans have been behind Mark Lewin's efforts 110%.

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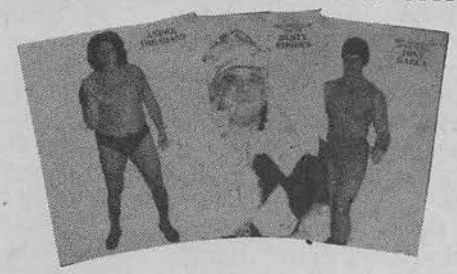

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

Jeet Singh, Ricky Steamboat, Jay Youngblood, Dick Slater, Ron Miller, and David Sammartino. Also, some very special title matches have been arranged to take place on some of the cards of this series. Atsushi Onita will return from Mexico and defend his International Junior Heavyweight Championship against the challenge of Jay Youngblood. Mr. Onita will also team up with Ricky Steamboat on a Tokyo spectacular and challenge the A.W.A. World's Tag Team Champions - High Flyers Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell - who will be imported for the occasion. On that same card "Giant" Baba will defend his P.W.F. Heavyweight crown against the challenge of Tiger Jeet Singh, Ric Flair will defend his N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Championship against the challenge of "Jumbo" Tsuruta. Flair is also signed to defend that title against Rick Steamboat in Nagaoka, Japan.

The All Japan Pro Wrestling organization also works very closely with the professional wrestling promotions in Korea. Veteran native star Kim Ill (a.k.a. Kintaro Oki) is holder of the Asia Heavyweight Championship recognized in Korea and he has recently successfully defended it in Seoul against challenges from Rocky Hata and from Ashura Hara. The Korean combo of Nankaizan and Kuretaikin hold the Oriental Tag Team Championship recognized in Korea and they recently defended it against the challenge of Prince Tonga and Sugawara. Other A.J.P.W. stars who have appeared in Korea recently include Tenryu, Shiro Koshinaka, Riki Dozan Jr., and Mitsuo Momota.

THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

We are going to start our look at the World Wrestling Federation with a look at the New Japan Pro Wrestling promotion in Japan which is headed by Hisashi Shimma who is the president of the entire W.W.F. This promotion also holds membership in the National Wrestling Alliance.

The Grand Prix Heavyweight Tournament which we reported on earlier is still going under the direction of Mr. Shimma, but we have no new information on it for this month.

The big news here is that injuries have put two of the main stars of the N.J.P.W. promotion out of action. Antonio Inoki, who is recognized as World Martial Arts Champion, and Tiger Mask, who was recognized as World Wrestling Federation Junior Heavyweight Champion. In the case of the junior heavyweight championship it was declared vacant when Tiger Mask was unable to defend it. More on this later. According to reports both of these top stars should return to action shortly.

El Gran Hamada, who appears regularly on N.J.P.W. cards, recently returned from a triumphant tour of Mexico where he captured two major titles. They are the World Wrestling Federation Lightheavyweight Championship and the Universal Wrestling Association Middleweight Championship. He won both these titles from Perro Aguayo in Mexico. When the W.W.F. Junior Heavyweight title was declared vacant, Mr. Shimma matched Hamada against the Masked Black Tiger to crown a new champion, and although he came close Hamada failed in his bid to become a triple champion as Black Tiger took that crown.

Mr. Shimma has just announced that the N.J.P.W. is going to revive two titles which have been vacant for some time. They are the organizations Asia Heavyweight Championship with Antonio Inoki, Seiji Sakaguchi, Riki Choshu, and Higo "Animal" Hamaguchi; and the organization Asia Tag Team Championship. Apparently the tournament for the heavyweight title will come first as no contenders were listed for the tag title.

It might be remembered that when the Grand Prix tournament started all of the major heavyweight titles then recognized by the N.J.P.W. were returned to that organization. Those included the N.W.F. title claim of Antonio Inoki, The Asia title claim of Tiger Jeet Singh, and the Asia tag team title claim of Seiji Sakaguchi & Riki Choshu. Now two of these are going to be revived as separate titles according to my understanding.

The "Big Fight Series" is currently in progress in N.J.P.W. rings and so far those featured have included Jesse "The Body" Ventura, Abdullah the Butcher, "Big Red" Reese, "Bad News" Allen Coage, "Special Delivery" Jones, Perro Aguayo, Jose Estrada, Jose Gonzales, "Playboy" Buddy Rose, Jim Neidhart, The Masked Black Tiger, El Gran Hamada, Tatsumi "Dragon" Fujinami, Yoshiaki Yatsu, Seiji Sakaguchi, Kantaro Hoshino, Kengo Kimura, Osamu Kido, Ryuma Go, Jager Lee, Riki Batsusan, Eigen, Yoshiaki Fujiwara, Teranishi, "Animal" Hamaguchi, Arakawa, Nakano, Kosugi, Kurusu, and Les Thornton, the World's Junior Heavyweight Champion as recognized by the National Wrestling Alliance.

Expected in the near future to make appearances on N.J.P.W. cards in Japan are Andre the Giant, Dich Murdoch, Hiro Matsuda, and The Incredible Hulk Hogan.

The next W.W.F. booking office we will look at is the one in Mexico City which is headed by Francisco Flores who is the executive secretary of the W.W.F. This organization is known as the Universal Wrestling Association. Mr. Flores presents wrestling throughout Latin America. Among the stars who have been featured on his cards recently have been Gran Hamada, Tatsumi Fujinami, Jose Luis Mendieta, America Salvaje, Solar, Dos Caras, Anibal, Ultraman, Mano Negra, Lobo Rubio, Black Terry, Dr. Wagner, Ray Mendoza, Villanos I-II-III, Angel Blanco, Rayo de Jalisco, Enrique Vera, Tony Rocco, El Texano, Negro Navarro, El Signo, Fishman, Babe Face, El Solitario, Allen Coage, El Canek, and Perro Aguayo. We do not have complete information on this promotion and would appreciate any help.

Another booking office we are not receiving regular reports on is the one in Honolulu, Hawaii, which is headed by Peter Maivia who holds membership in both the W.W.F. and the N.W.A. The wrestlers appearing there regularly at last report included Salvatore Bellomo, Roy Starr, Siva Afi, Rocky Johnson, Victor Rivera, Dynamo Milo, Mike Allen, Sabastian Stone, Sakalai, Super Fly Tui, and Farmer Boy Ipo. We would also appeciate any help that anyone can give to us on this promotion.

Next we will take a look at the Los Angeles booking office headed by promoter Mike Lebell who holds membership in both the W.W.F. and N.W.A. Besides the big cards held in Los Angeles (on Fridays at the Olympic Auditorium) and in Las Vegas (on Thursdays at the Showboat) this office also presents wrestling weekly at Lake Tahoe, Nevada (on Saturday) and at the following southern California locations: San Bernardino (Sunday), Santa Ana (Monday), San Jose (Tuesday), and Norco (Wednesday).

First we will start off with a run down of the titles. The Exotic Adrian continues to hold the Americas' Heavyweight Championship and has made successful defenses against both Brazo de Oro and Brazo de Plata during the past month. Our last report had the team of "Bad Boy" Bobby Lane & Killer Kim holding the Americas' Tag Team Championship. Under special rules in effect for a singles match between Lane and Chris Adams, the tag team title was at stake and Adams won it so we are not sure at present who or if he has chosen a co-holder.

Black Terry brought a version of the

World's Lightweight Championship which he won in Mexico from Black Man to this area. Black Man followed and unsuccessfully challenged Terry. Black Man has since stayed in California where the masked star from Mexico has become very popular.

Brazo de Oro and Brazo de Plata hold recognition here as World's Tag Team Champions and they recently defended that title against a challenge from Killer Kim and Scorpio. Lola Gonzales is recognized here as World Ladies Champion and she recently defended that honor against a challenge from Irma Gonzales.

Victor Rivera holds the area's "Beat The Champ" title. Among the challengers he has turned back during the past month include Kamakaze, Diamond Timothy Flowers III, "Bad Boy" Bobby Lane and Mr. Go.

Other grapplers who have appeared on LeBell promotions during the past month include Mando Guerrero, Ringo Rigby, Los Villanos 1-2-3, The Death Missionaries (El Signo, El Texano, and Negro Navarro), Mr. Toyo, Black Gordman, and "Superstar" Billy Graham.

Next we will cover what is the largest booking office in the W.W.F., in fact probably the largest in all wrestling. It is the Capitol Wrestling office headed by Vince McMahon and Phil Zacko and located in Washington, D.C. They present wrestling in virtually every major arena and many of the smaller ones throughout the northeast - covering the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, and Maryland.

Bob Backlund, the World Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Champion, has defended his title often throughout the area during the past month as has Pedro Morales who hold's the area's Inter-Continental Heavyweight Championship. Andre the Giant has been here often also and holds the People's Championship. Top heavyweight challengers here include Jimmy Snuka, Black Jack Mulligan, Cowboy Bob Orton, Tony "Mr. U.S.A." Atlas, Ivan "Polish Power" Putski, Tony Garea, S. D. Jones, and Greg Valentine. Expected shortly are Big John Studd and "Playboy" Buddy Rose.

The team of Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito (under the management of Capt. Lou Albano) continues to hold the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Championship. The top ranking challengers include the teams of Steve Travis & Rick McGraw, Jay & Jules Strongbow, and Jesse "The Body" Ventura & "Golden Boy" Adrian Adonis.

The Fabulous Moolah continues to hold the Ladies Championship

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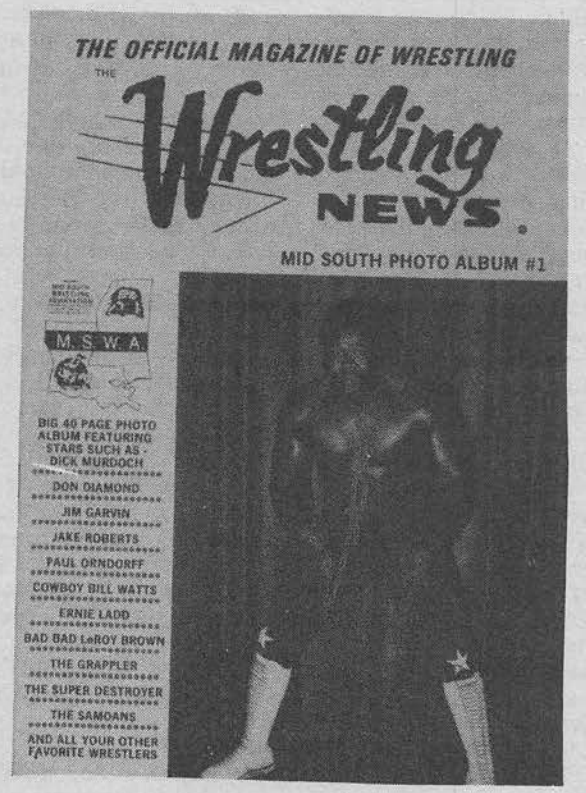

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recognized by this promotion. Other female stars who have appeared here recently include Judy Martin, Penny Mitchell, and Sherry Martel.

Other grapplers who have appeared on Capitol Wrestling cards during the past month include Swede Hanson, Charlie Fulton, Jose Estrada, Johnny Rodz, Laurent Soucie, Pete Sanchez, James J. Dillon, Fred Marzino, Baron Mikel Scicluna, Larry Sharpe, and The Black Demon. Managers Fred Blassie and The Grand Wizard have been active in Madison Square Garden and on television. Appearing on television only have been Jeff Craney, Paul Figerous, Charlie Brown, Mac Rivera, Joe Perkins, Barry Hart, Tony Colon, and Lee Wong.

The last booking office we will cover in the W.W.F. section is the Montreal, Canada, organization headed by Frank Valois that presents wrestling throughout Quebec. Here again we have an office where we are not at present receiving regular reports. The last information we have saw Dino Bravo holding the area's Canadian Heavyweight Championship and the combination of Gilles Poisson and Sailor White recognized as Canadian Tag Team Champions. Other grapplers active in Quebec on W.W.F. cards included Joe Ventura, Ed Carpentier, Pierre "Mad Dog" Lefebvre, Raymond Rogeau, Andre the Giant, Louis Lawrence, Mr. Sito, The Hangman (a.k.a. Le Bourreau), Richard Charland, Bobby Kay, The Intelligent Sensational Destroyer, Gino Brito, Michel DuBois, and Big John Studd.

THE NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

The National Wrestling Alliance is the largest cooperative of professional wrestling promoters in the world. The president of the organization is Jim Crockett of Charlotte, North Carolina. So far as we know, there are only two titles at present that are recognized by the entire N.W.A. They are the World's Heavyweight Championship currently held by Ric Flair, and the World's Junior Heavyweight Championship currently held by Les Thornton.

President Crockett has also been conducting a tag team tournament in various parts of the country with regional tournaments being held in several areas. The ultimate stated goal of this tournament is to name a team that is recognized by the entire National Wrestling Alliance as World's Tag Team Champions. According to our latest report the field has now been narrowed to two teams. They are Stan Hansen & Ole Anderson and Wahoo McDaniel and Don "The Magnificent" Muraco. These teams are to meet in a best of seven series of matches with the ultimate winner to be recognized as tag team champions by the N.W.A.

Now we will cover the individual N.W.A. booking offices. As we noted earlier, some of the offices listed in the A.W.A. and W.W.F. sections of area close-ups also belong to the N.W.A., and as you will find from reading on some listed under here may also belong to one of the previous organizations. Because each office in wrestling is an independent operation and membership in one of the major organizations is an optional thing, we have actually grouped the different offices as we found most convenient and do not wish to indicate by our grouping that an office is more connected with one organization or another.

The first booking office we will take a look at in this N.W.A. section is the one in Charlotte, North Carolina, that is headed by N.W.A. president Jim Crockett and his broth David Crockett. They present wrestling throughout the Carolinas and Virginia. The top regional championship of these promotions is the United States Heavyweight Championship which is currently held by Sergeant Slaughter. He has recently turned back challenges here from Jake Roberts, Mike George, and Wahoo McDaniel. They also have two other regional heavyweight titles. Jack Brisco recently defeated Roddy Piper to win the Mid Atlantic Heavyweight Championship. And, Ivan Koloff continues to hold the Mid Atlantic Television Championship, although in recent weeks he has really been embroiled in a feud over that title with Jimmy Valiant. World's Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair has made several appearances here, turning back challenges from Ole Anderson and from Wahoo McDaniel.

On the tag team scene, Pvt. Don Kernodle and Pvt. Jim Nelson recently defeated the combination of Jay Youngblood and Porkchop Cash to win the Mid Atlantic Tag Team Championship. Other grapplers who have appeared in the Mid Atlantic area during the past month include Angelo "King Kong" Mosca, Ron Ritchie, Mike Davis, Ken Timbs, Kelly Kinishki, Jim Dalton, Keith Larson, Bill White, Johnny Weaver, "Pretty Boy" Karl Fergie, David Patterson, Paul Jones, Lord Alfred Hayes, The Ninja, Ray "The Crippler" Steven, Jeff Sword, Rusty Roberts, Vinnie Valentino, Mike Rotundo, Don "The Magnificent" Muraco, Tony Russo, Tim Horner, Tony Anthony, Stan Hansen, Black Jack Mulligan Jr., Austin Idol, Steve Sybert, and Terry Taylor.

Frank Tunney heads up the Toronto booking office which we will cover next. Tunney holds membership in the A.W.A. and W.W.F. in addition to the N.W.A. but we have chosen to cover it here because the Mid Atlantic television program is seen in Toronto and most of the talent appearing on the cards comes from the Toronto office. This promotion presents wrestling about twice a month in the Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto, and also presents cards in other Canadian cities in the area. Mid Atlantic wrestling also presnts cards in Buffalo, New York.

The top area title is again held by Angelo "King Kong" Mosca who won this Canadian Heavyweight Championship from Big John Studd. Mosca has successfully defended it against recent challenges from Tarzan Tyler (in Toronto) and Studd (in Ottawa).

In an unusual night even for Maple Leaf Garden standards, fans there were able to see two different World's Heavyweight Champions defend their titles. Ric Flair, so recognized by the N.W.A., defended his crown against Harley Race in a match that saw both men disqualified. In the other half of the main event, Nick Bockwinkel defended his crown as recognized by the A.W.A. against "King Kong" Mosca. Bockwinkel ended up being disqualified when Studd came into the ring and interfered. On the upcoming Toronto card, Bockwinkel and Studd will team up against the combination of Mosca and Black Jack Mulligan Jr. Nick also successfully defended A.W.A. honors against the challenge of Jay Youngblood in Ottawa.

Ivan Koloff has also been defending his Mid Atlantic Television Championship in Ontario. This past month he turned back challenges from "Handsome" Jimmy Valiant (even though Valient won on disqualifation) and from "Outlaw" Ron Bass. And, Privates Don Kernodle and Jim Nelson successfully defended their Mid Atlantic Tag Team title against a challenge from Johnny Weaver & Big Mac.

Other grapplers who have appeared in this area during the past month include Black Jack Mulligan Sr., The Ninja, Jeff Sword, Tony Ricco, Toto Zenza, Porkchop Cash, Ron Ritchie, Ray "The Crippler" Stevens, Louis Lawrence, Alex Girrard, Tim Gerrard, Brian Mackney, and Jake Roberts.

Next we will look at the Atlanta booking office which is headed by Jim Barnett and Paul Jones. They have two area titles at present. The National Heavyweight Championship has changed hands twice during the past month. Tommy Rich won it from "Outlaw" Ron Bass but then lost it to

Buzz Sawyer. The Super Destroyer and Big John Studd continue to hold the National Tag Team Championship. Among the teams that they have successfully defended against during the past thirty days are Tommy Rich & Dusty "The American Dream" Rhodes, Bob & Brad Armstrong, and Mr. Wrestling II & Jerry Brisco. Ric Flair has turned back challenges to the World's Heavyweight Championship from Harley Race and from LeRoy Brown.

Other grapplers who have appeared on Georgia Championship Wrestling cards during the past month include Dick Slater, Kevin Sullivan, Tom Prichard, Tony Russo, Roddy Piper, The Great Kabuki (managed by Gary Hart), Ole Anderson, Terry Funk, Stan Hansen, Ric Harris, Rick Thor, Spike Huber, Paul Orndorff, Chick Donovan, Michael Hayes, Ken & Ed Timms, Jose Medina, Jim Dalton, Jim Gallagher, Mike Jackson, El Mongol, Ted DiBiase, Gino Hernandez, Snake Brown George "The Animal" Steele, Steve Sybert, and The Superstar.

As many of you are aware, Georgia Championship Wrestling is seen on many cable television systems around the country. Steve "O" has become the host of the Sunday "Best Of" program. Georgia Championship Wrestling has also been going out on the road outside of Georgia for some time now. The Ohio Center in Columbus has been having regular live cards for several years now presented by this promotion, and more recently they have also had cards in other Ohio cities. Just this past month they moved into the state of Michigan, presenting cards in Lansing, Saginaw, and Grand Rapids. Among the stars featured on these cards were Dusty Rhodes, Bob Armstrong, Buz Sawyer, Kabuki, Tommy Rich, Ron Bass, LeRoy Brown, John Studd, The Super Destroyer, Tom Prichard, Brad Armstrong, and Kevin Sullivan.

Next we will take a look at the Tampa booking office which is headed by Eddie Graham and Jim Barnett. They present wrestling thoughout the state and have some outstanding talent on their cards. There has been quite a bit of action involving the regional heavyweight titles. Dorry Funk Jr. still is recognized here as International Heavyweight Champion, and David von Erich as Southern Heavyweight Champion, but they lost the area North American Tag Team Championships they were co-holders of to the team of Sweet Brown Sugar and Butch "Hacksaw" Reed. David von Erich did pick up another title, however, as he bested Sweet Brown Sugar to win the Florida Television Championship. Sugar had earlier taken that title from Ray "The Crippler" Stevens. The Florida State Heavyweight Championship also changed hands with Mr. Wrestling II regaining it from "King" James J. Dillon. World's Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair also made appearances here to successfully defend his World's Heavyweight Championship against challenges from Dusty Rhodes, "Hacksaw" Reed, and Wahoo McDaniel.

Mike Graham and Steve Keirn teamed to win the Florida regionals in the World's Tag Team Championship tournament, but were apparently eliminated somewhere further down the line as our last report out of the N.W.A. headquarters said that only two teams were left - Hansen & Anderson and McDaniel & Muraco - as we reported earlier.

Other grapplers who have appeared on N.W.A. cards in Florida during the past month include Jerry Lawler, Kendo Nagasaki, Cyclon Negro, Hiro Matsuda, Terry Allen, El Gran Apollo, Brian Blair, Don Diamond, Bubba Douglas, Jerry Brisco, Dick Murdoch, Terry Funk, Dick Slater, The Super Destroyer, Barry Windham (a.k.a. Black Jack Mulligan Jr.), Tommy Wright, Reggie Parks, and midget stars Little Tokyo and Lone Eagle. Lady wrestlers Princess Victoria and Donna Christantello also appeared.

Next we will look at the N.W.A. booking office in Mobile, Alabama. They present weekly cards in that city and also in three other Alabama cities

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that I am aware of - Birmingham, Dothan, and Montgomery - and in two Florida cities - Pensecola and Tallahassee - as well as in other smaller towns on a less regular basis in the Gulf Coast.

There have been no title changes here since our last report. Joe Leduc continues to hold the Southeastern Heavyweight Championship and has defended it several times against Jacques Rogeau. The Sheepherders (Jonathan Boyd & Luke Williams) still hold the Southeastern Tag Team Championship. Their most persistant challenger has been Robert Fuller who has unsuccessfully challenged them with at least three different partners, namely Jimmy Golden, Jacques Rogeau, and his brother Ron "The Tennessee Studd" Fuller.

Terry Gordy still holds the Alabama State Heavyweight Championship at last report, and during the past month he has turned back challenges from Michael Hayes, Joe Leduc, and Jimmy Golden. Scott McGhee continues to hold the area's U.S. Junior Heavyweight Championship. He has successfully defended that title against both Tony Charles and Ted Oates within the last thirty days.

The big news is that Terry Gordy and Michael Hayes may once again team up. They have been involved in a very bitter feud, but when The Sheepherders and Joe Leduc recently came into the ring and attacked Hayes while he was wrestling Gordy, the two men who formerly teamed as part of "The Freebirds" united again against the three invaders.

Other grapplers who have appeared on N.W.A. cards in the Gulf Coast area during the past month include Roy Lee Welch, Juan Reynosa, Larry Hamilton, Ivan The Terrible, Bobby Garrett, Rick Harris, Mike Jackson, Ric Thor, and lady stars Sabrina and Bette Clarke.

The next stop on our trip "On And Around The Mat World" will be the Dallas booking office. They present weekly cards in both Dallas and Fort Worth and are doing well there, in fact they plan to have a spectacular shortly in Texas Stadium, the home of football's Dallas Cowboys. They also have been running cards in Austin and San Antonio in opposition to the longer established Southwest Championship Wrestling promotions (covered under the A.W.A. earlier in this column) and in Oklahoma in opposition to the Mid South Wrestling Association promotions (which will be covered later in this column).

During the past month there have been a lot of title changes. Kerry von Erich regained the U.S. American Heavyweight Championship from Bugsy McGraw in Dallas. However, McGraw later took the Brass Knucks title from Jose Lothario in Fort Worth. Bill Irwin continues to hold the Texas State Heavyweight Championship, but is now embroiled in a real feud with his manager, Frank Dusek. Irwin is trying to break the contract he has with Dusek.

This promotion has their own version of the World's Tag Team Championship. During the past month Kerry von Erich & Alberto Madril lost it to King Kong Bundy & Bugsy McGraw in Dallas, but then later regained it in a rematch held in San Antonio. N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair successfully defended his title against challenges from Alberto Madril (in Fort Worth) and Kerry von Erich (in San Antonio).

Other grapplers who have appeared on cards of this promotion during the past month include Fritz von Erich, The Great Kabuki (managed by Gary Hart), The Golden Dragon, The Spoiler, Richard Blood, Tom "Boogaloo" Shaft, Kevin von Erich, Black Gordman, Carlos Zapata, Armond Hussian, Salvador Alivares, Raul Castro, Ti John Tibbedeaux, Mike Bond, and Ken Mantell. Also lady stars Susan Sterling and Bette Clarke and midget stars Tokyo Joe and Tiny Tom have made appearances.

Next we will take a look at the Kansas City booking headed by Promoter Bob Geigel. Their big weekly shows are on Thrusday night in Memorial Hall in Kansas City, Kansas. They also present shows regularly in Topeka in that state and during the past month also had cards in Kansas (Fort Scott, Junction city, and Emporia), in Missouri (Fort Leonard Wood, Higginsville, and St. Joseph), and Iowa (Dows, Jewell, and Des Moines). Former wrestlers Sonny Myers and Pat O'Connor see regular duty as referees in this area. Terry Garvin is the regular ring announcer and occasionally enters the ring as a contestant.

Roger "Nature Boy" Kirby recently captured the Central States Heavyweight Championship from "Bulldog" Bob Brown in St. Joseph, Missouri. Kirby and Jerry Brown also won the Central States Tag Team Championship in a very unusual way. The title had been held up as a result of a controversial match between them and champions Steve Regal & Dewey Robertson. When Regal failed to show up for the rematch ordered to settle the controversy, the tag title was awarded to Brown & Kirby.

Mark Romero, the son of Ricky Romero who has also been wrestling in the area, captured the Central States Television Championship by defeating "Mean" Gene Lewis.

Wendi Richter and Joyce Grable lost their World's Tag Team Championship of lady wrestling to the team of Sabrina and Princess Victoria in Kansas City, but then regained it a week later in that same city. Lady grapplers Early Dawn and Sandy Partlow were also active in this area during the past month. N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair also made several appearances in the area, successfully defending his crown against challenges from Harley Race and from Dewey Robertson.

Other grapplers who have appeared on cards of this promotion during the past thirty days include Ken Milsap, Rufus R. Jones, Dave Nevin, Ray "Hercules" Hernandez, Art Crews, The Masked Super Fly (managed by Sir Oliver Humperdink), Ron McFarlene, The Great Kabuki (managed by Gary Hart), Michael Hayes, Dusty "The American Dream" Rhodes, Mike George, David von Erich, and Terry Funk.

Next we will take a look at the St. Louis Wrestling Club. The N.W.A. office has Larry Matysik as General Manager and Pat O'Connor as Matchmaker. Bob Geigel and Verne Gagne are also partners in the promotion.

Dick the Bruiser continues to reign as Missouri State Heavyweight Champion here. He recently turned back the challenge of Harley Race who was counted out outside the ring in their meeting. N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair successfully defended that title when he defeated Gene Kiniski, a former holder of that same title.

Lady stars Joyce Grable, Wendi Richter, Sabrina, and Princess Victoria all made appearances in St. Louis during the past month as did male grapplers Jerry "Crusher" Blackwell, Ken Patera, Dusty "The American Dream" Rhodes, Rufus R. Jones, Kelly Kiniski, Jerry Brown, Michael Hayes, Ron McFarlane, Steve Regal, Roger "Nature Boy" Kirby, Andre the Giant, Dick Murdoch, Dewey Robertson, Jack Brisco, David von Erich, Kerry von Erich, The Masked Super Fly (managed by Sir Oliver Humperdink), "Bulldog" Bob Brown, Ray "Hercules" Hernandez, and Mark Romero.

Next we will take a look at the fine N.W.A. promotions in the Pacific Northwest. Don Owens heads up the booking office in Portland, Oregon, and presents weekly cards at the Sports Arena in that city every Saturday which are televised throughout Oregon and Washington. He also presents special cards in Portland about twice a month.

His brother, Elton Owens, promotes wrestling cards on Friday nights at the

Eugene, Oregon, fair grounds - and occasionally in Albany, Oregon. Sandy Barr promotes wrestling in Salem, Oregon, on Thursdays at the Grand Theatre and occasionally has a special card at the South Salem Highschool. Dutch Savage promotes wrestling in the state of Washington using wrestlers from the Portland office. He has monthly cards in Longview at the Lower Columbia Community College and in Tacoma at the Bi-Centennial Pavillion. He also presents cards about twice a month in the Seattle Center Arena and spot shows in other Washington cities.

There have been several title changes here during the past month. Rip Oliver captured the Pacific Northwest Heavyweight Championship from Brent "Hacksaw" Sawyer. The Pacific Northwest Tag Team Championship has changed hands several times. Rip Oliver and Matt Borne won it from Rocky Johnson and King Parson. Then they lost it and regained it in matches with the father-son combinations of Larry "The Axe" Hennig and Curt "The Hatchet" Hennig. So Oliver and Borne hold the title at last report as we go to press.

N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair was in the area and turned back challenges to his title from Brent Sawyer and from "Playboy" Buddy Rose. Rose was so confident that he would win the title from Flair if he got a match that he said if he failed he would leave the area. Well, Rose did not win the title, and he has left the area.

Other grapplers who have appeared on N.W.A. cards in Washington and Oregon during the past month include Dizzy Hogan, Stan Stasiak, Mike Miller, David Shultz, Tommy Rogers, Siva Afi, Billy White Cloud, and Chung Lee.

Next we will take a short jump up north of the border to the Vancouver, British Columbia, N.W.A. booking office in Canada. Promoter Al Tomko heads up that office and he also headlines many of his own cards. At last report the area had an International Tag Team Championship that was recently won by Terry "Kiss" Adonis and Bruiser Costa from Dean Ho and Sonny Myers. "Bulldog" Bob Brown recently returned to the area with a "United States Heavyweight Championship" title which somehow he has been defending in Canada. His most persistant challenger has been promoter Tomko. Earlier Tomko was engaged in a long feud with his former regular tag team partner - Igor Volkoff. Other grapplers who were reported appearing on N.W.A. cards in British Columbia during the past month include "Playboy" Buddy Rose, Mike Bond, Moose Morowski, Bob Steele, Mr. Pro, Eric Froelich, and Larry Watts.

Next we will move over and look at the N.W.A. booking office in Calgary, Alberta. Headed by Stu Hart, this office presents cards throughout Alberta and Sasketchewan provinces of Canada. There have been a lot of title changes since we last ran them down. The area North American Heavyweight Championship passed from Mr. Hito to Leo Burke. The Dynamite Kid (Tommy Billington) holds the Mid-Heavyweight Championship. And Bruce Hart is recognized here as Commonwealth Champion.

The big event however was an International Tag Team Championship tournament that was held for two straight days in Regina, Sask. The final match saw Duke Myers & Kerry Brown defeat David Schultz & Leo Burke to win the title. Other teams in the competition included The Cuban Assassin & Ho Chi Lau, Steve Taylor & Don Kolov, Hercules Ayala & Kung Fu, Hubert Gallant & Jude Rosenbloom, The Angel & Chicky Perone, Bret & Bruce Hart, Mike Shaw & Tab Rogers, and Tim Shea & Robbie Stewart. That includes just about everyone in the area during the past month.

We have not received much information on the N.W.A. booking office in San Juan, Puerto Rico, of late. We do know that they present pro wrestling throughout the Carribean. They have quite a few titles here. We do know that Carlos Colon recently captured the Puerto Rico Heavyweight Championship from The Mongolian Stomper. As far as we know, the other titles recognized by this promotion, are still held by the following: World Tag Team Championship: Terry & Dory Funk; Puerto Rico Tag Team Championship: The Moondogs; Carribean Heavyweight Championship: King Kong Mosca; and North American Heavyweight Championship: "Hangman" Bobby Jaggers. Other grapplers who have appeared recently are Pierre Martel, The Invader, The Invader #2, Charlie Cook, Frank Savage, Tommy & Eddie Gilbert, Ray Apollon, Hans Mueller, The Super Gladiator, Bruno Bekkar, Victor Jovica, Don Kent, Hugo Savinovich, Johnny Rivera, Abdullah the Butcher, and Jose Rivera. We could use more regular reports on this area and would appreciate help on this that anyone can give us.

We have heard very little about what is happening with the N.W.A. promotions down under. We did receive one clipping from last month that indicated that Steve Rickard, Baron von Krupp, Mark Lewin, The Avenger, The Assasin, King Kamaka,

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Tama Sasa, and J.J. Johnson were then appearing in New Zealand, but we have no certainty on the champions recognized there. We have heard that there is no professional wrestling promotions in Australia at present, but do not know for sure on that either.

THE MID SOUTH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Charlie Leigh is the president of the Mid South Wrestling Association. This organization has three booking offices. They are in Jackson, Mississippi (headed by George and Gil Culkin and presented cards throughout that state); in Shreveport, Louisiana (headed by Grizzly Smith and Jack Curtis Jr. and presenting cards throughout that state); and in Tulsa, Oklahoma (headed by Cowboy Bill Watts and presenting cards throughout Oklahoma and Arkansas as well as in parts of Missouri).

Bob Roop continues to hold the North American Heavyweight Championship. He has had some real battles with a former holder of that title - Ted DiBiase - of late. Another man who must be ranked a top contender throughout the M.S.W.A. is The Junkyard Dog. He has held the Louisiana State Heavyweight Championship for some time now and he recently formed a tag team with the masked Mr. Olympia, holder of the Mississippi State Heavyweight Championship. Together they teamed up to defeat The Samoans (Afa and Sika) and thus to win the Mid South Heavyweight Championship in Jackson, Mississippi.

The Samoans were under the management of General Scandor Akbar, but we are not sure how long that relationship will last if they don't regain the title as the General is not one to keep anyone around who is not a winner. Akbar still has Crusher Broomfiled, known as "The One Man Gang" under his contract and reportedly is looking for new recruits for his army.

A really bitter feud has developed in M.S.W.A. rings between Ernie "Cat" Ladd and The Assassin. These two are really after each other. Others who have appeared on M.S.W.A. recently include Dick Murdoch, Harley Race, Tully Blanchard, Cocoa Samoa, The Grappler, Iron Mike Sharpe, Jesse Barr, Buddy Landell, "Bruiser" Bob Sweetan, The Grappler, "Bad Bad" LeRoy Brown, and "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan.

Throughout the Mid South Wrestling Association, fans have been turning out in record numbers of late, but the real showcase of the organization is the Louisiana Superdome Extravaganzas which they present several times a year in New Orleans. The most recent one was held in May and drew another record crowd. Many people from outside the area attend these events, and as a service to our readers I want to include complete ticket information on the next Superdome card which will be held on Saturday, July 17th, 1982.

Ticket prices are $25, $20, $10, $8, and $6 depending on location. They can be ordered via mail by sending a certified check or money order with a self addressed stamped envelope and 50¢ handling charges to Superdome Wrestling, P.O. Box 53395, New Orleans, Louisiana 70153. They can also be ordered via telephone (504-524-6276) using a MasterCard or Visa credit card.

THE INDEPENDENTS

As is the policy of this magazine, we cover the four major leagues of professional wrestling first in this column, and then follow with coverage of the booking offices that do not hold membership in any of the majors. This in no way indicates that these promotions are inferior to the others listed earlier. In fact, many stars listed in this section also appeared on promotions of other offices listed earlier in this column. Because there is no monopoly in the sport of professional wrestling, anyone is free to promote anywhere that he wishes with the only limits being the money that a new promotion is willing to invest and the money it gains when the fans decide whether or not to support them. It is our policy to cover all organizations we receive reports on. It is up to you, the fans of wrestling, to make your own judgements as to how well you support these smaller promotions. Some of them could well grow to major league status in the future. Our coverage is allocated on the basis of how much information we receive on an organization and how much interest there is among our readers in these organizations.

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING is the name of any organization that is based in Lexington, Kentucky. We have reports on cards they presented in that state and also in West Virginia and Illinois during the past month. The championships recognized by this organization remain the same as far as we know. They are: World's Heavyweight Championship held by Randy "Macho Man" Savage, U.S. Heavyweight Championship held by The Sheik, Southeastern Heavyweight Championship held by Ronnie Garvin, Television Championship held by Angelo "The Miser" Poffo, and U.S. Tag Team Championship held by Rip Rogers and Pez Whatley. Other grapplers reported appearing on their cards recently include George Weingeroff, "Leaping" Lanny Poffo, Gary Royal, Tony Falk, Ox Baker, John Ruffen, Chief Tapu, Chuck Meserole, and lady wrestlers Peggy Lee and Lei Lani Kai.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING is the organization based in Detroit, Michigan, headed by Ed George. The Sheik continues to be recognized here as U.S. Champion (as he is by the I.C.W. as reported in the previous paragraph) and by the Big Bear promotions reported in the next paragraph. We have only one line-up report this month and no results reported. This was for a card scheduled in Melvindale, Michigan, that featured The Sheik against Chief Strongbow. Other names on the line-up were Tex McKenzie Jr., Black Jack Luka, Black Jack Muller, Don Eagle Jr., The Wildman, Thunderbolt Patterson, The Super Destroyer, Candy Devine, and Diane von Hoffman.

BIG BEAR PROMOTIONS is an organization that we understand runs cards in smaller cities in Ontario. The only card we have a report on during the past month was in Brampton where we understand The Sheik successfully defended his title claim against the challenge of Tiger Jeet Singh. Chris Colt battled Luis Martinez on the same card. The rest of the card was not reported on but we do know that others who have worked on cards of Big Bear promotions in recent months include The Wolfman, Ray Yarek, Black Jack Danny Johnson, Johnny Valiant, Frankie Laine, Whipper Watson Jr., Domenic DeNucci, and Killer Kowalski.

SUPERSTARS WRESTLING is the organization that has presented a card in Detroit's Cobo Hall during the past month. We understand that it is headed by George Cannon and Al Costello. The card we have a report on saw Sailor White defeat The Mighty Igor in the main event. John Binello defeated Frankie Laine in a pole match. Chris Carter defeated Muhammid Saad in the finals of a tournament to name this organization's junior heavyweight champion. Others in that competition were Randy Scott, Zoltan Thunder, Tony Leone, Sonny Rogers, and Pepper Gonzales. Others appearing on the card were Greg Wojokowski, Hans Mueller, Billy Jackson, Smasher Stone, and lady wrestlers Vivian St. John and Sherry Martell.

WORLD WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: This booking office is located in Indianapolis, Indiana, and is headed by Sam Menacker. We reported in our last issue that the organizations heavyweight championship was held

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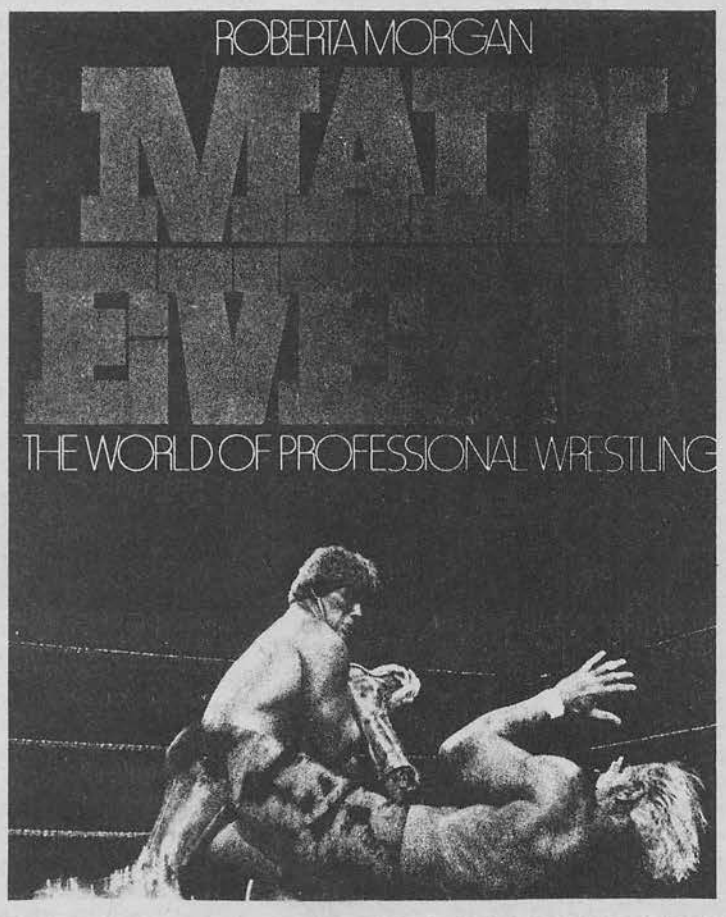

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up pending a rematch scheduled for Indianapolis between Harley Race and Bobo Brazil. We have no report on the outcome of that match, but we do have a report on a Hammond, Indiana, card several days later that states Brazil successfully defended the W.W.A. title in the main event defeating Wilbur Snyder. Other grapplers scheduled on the W.W.A. cards in Indiana included Dick the Bruiser, The Hangman, Rufus R. Jones, Paul Christy, Black Saint, J.R. & Hoss Hogg, Jerry Valiant and Steve Regal. The W.W.A. tag team championship was held by Wilbur Snyder and Spike Huber at last report. They were being challenged by a team known as the Iranian Assassins - indivdually named Ali Hassan and Abdullah the Great. The other W.W.A. card that we received a report on took place in Lancaster, Ohio. In the main event Dick the Bruiser battled Lars Anderson (a.k.a. Larry Heiniemi) and they were both counted out outside the ring. The other main match saw the Hogg brothers and the Hassan-Abdullah combination both disqualified in a tag bout. Zoltan the great (who is recognized by the I.W.F. as junior heavyweight champion - see next paragraph) battled Spike Hubr to a draw. Others who appeared on this W.W.A. card were Buddy Donovan, Black Demon, Mike McGee, Gary Russell, The Convicts, The Caveman, and Bobby Bold Eagle.

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION: This is the new organization that we first reported on in our last issue. They are active in the northeast - mainly in small arenas - so far. The champions recognized by the I.W.F. are at last report: Killer Kowalski (World's Heavyweight Champion), Dan Petty & Richard Byrne (World's Tag Team Champions), Zoltan the Great (World's Jr. Heavyweight Champion), Domenic DeNucci (Ohio Heavyweight Champion), and The Convicts (Ohio Tag Team Champions).

As we understand it, the organization has two different television programs and two divisions. Jack Viles is listed as president of the entire organization, with Tom Burke as his assistant. The one television program originates in Allentown, Pa., and has Sam Menacker, Mike Mitman, and Bruno Sammartino Sr. doing play by play, while the other in Boston with Chris Clausen. Wrestlers who have appeared in both divisions recently include Kowalski, Petty, Byrne, Ron Shaw, Hans Schroeder, John Valiant, Bruno Sammartino Jr., Ed Bonzo, Rocky Raymond, John Callahan, and Manuel Soto. Those who have appeared only in the Pennsylvania-Ohio I.W.F. cards are Larry Zbyszko, Jerry Valiant, Rocky Jones, Chief Warcloud, The Convicts, Zoltan, Dave O'Hannon, Buck Slattery, Dick Savage, JoJo Andrews, Billy Berger, Mike McGee, Greg Winston, Nick Busick, The Beast, Rock Rosetti, Buddy Donovan, Ron Lee, Jerry Marco, Mike Sciulli, Larry Winters, Al Palmer, Richard Brown, Pete McKay, The Commanche, The Mongolian, and Whipper Watson Jr. Those who have appeared only on New England I.W.F. cards are Ricky Sexton, Ricky Valdez, Golden Boy Madison, El Magnifico, The Soul Brothers (Tony Ulysses & Chris Grant), Frank Gulla, Steve Thunder, Gary McCarthy, Jethro Chambers, and Nickoli Rasputin. I almost forgot to mention that Bull Curry is acting as manager for John & Jerry Valiant, Ron Shaw, and Hans Schroeder.

GLOBAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE: This organization presents cards every month or so at the Golden Eagles Catering Hall in Philadelphia and draws several hundred fans. On the last card Eddie Valentino (who is known here as Gorgeous George Jr. but has no relation to the more famous bearer of that name) successfully defended his G.W.A. title by defeating Buck Slattery. In the other main match, Ron Shaw bested Ed Bonzo. Others who appeared were Chief White Feather, Mad Dog Marino, Joe Ortiz, and Concrete Cowboy.

WESTERN STATES WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Barry Bernsten heads up this organization that presents small shows in Phoenix, Arizona, on a weekly basis. We understand that The Lumberjacks (managed by Marcial Bovee) are still the recognized tag titleholders and Jody Arnold still holds this organization's version of the U.S. title. Tony Hernanez reportedly retired and the Arizona state title was given back to former champion John Rhinger. Others who have appeared here recently are The Monster, The Savage, Pedro El Grande, Paco Nunez, Ron Newstrome, Billy Anderson, Super Argo, Eddie Dean, Christopher & Golden Henderson, Phil Hansen, Navajo Frank and lady wrestlers Arizona Red, and a team known as The Angels of Darkness who are managed by Bovee.

INDEPENDENT WRESTLERS UNION operates in Franklin, Tennessee, and recognizes Joey Rossi as champion. Others who have appeared on their cards include Ron Walker, Tommy Vitto, Ricky Cox, and Ron Garfield.

SPORTS INTERNATIONAL UNLIMITED operates in small towns in Tennessee (Gallatin, Murfreesboro, and Columbia recently) and features Joey Rossi, Tommy Heggie, Tommy Vitto, Kenny Eaton, Jeff Carter, Jerry Jones, Mike Andrews, Jeff Wayne, Bernard Cox, Ted & Tom Hewell, Ted Castile, and various masked wrestlers including a team called The Bounty Hunters who are managed by Master Curtiss. Also lady wrestlers Candi Divine and Diane von Hoffman. This information comes from promoter Russ Edwards.

DIXIE WRESTLING is the name of a promotion in Boaz, Alabama, that recognizes Ted Allen as champion and has recently featured him and Johnny Starr, David Jones, Tony Valentino, Jimmy Powell, Mark Hill, Gene Spurlock, Jeff Young, Butch Mantell, and Levi Lundi.

SOUTH WRESTLING is the name of an organization in Huntsville, Alabama, that we have a report on. According to this it is headed by Bobby Bearden and Nick Gulas, and Ron Bass recently defended the singles title against LeRoy Brown. Others listed as appearing here in report were Jackie Fargo, Pat Rose, Ted Allen, David Baker, Johnny Starr, Butch Mantell, Jimmy Powell, Ron Chethum, Thurmond Dolan, Arvil Hutto, Joey Rossi, and Mike Jackson.

CONCLUSION

I want to thank the following who supplied information on which this column is based: William Alfred Wilson, Linda Churchill, Kate Mast, Christine Olson, Don Parks, George Labash, Allan Ammerlaan, Clifford Duncan, George Hill, Emma Yates, Dale Pierce, Harold Pfeiffer, John Lawson, Ken Jugan, Jim Ross, Kathy Dowd, Ken Zimmer, John Pinzker, Mario Reyes, Ray Kelly, Mary Guthknecht, Boyd Pierce, Pat Malone, Koichi Yoshizawa, Jeff Walton, Dick Lankford, Gary Juster, Kevin Heilbronner, Gene Gordon, Dave Williams, Charles J. Augustoni III, Doug Chambers, Chuck Thorton, Allan Cooper, Mark June, David Williamson, Eloise Mascorro, and Diane Devine. Without their help it would be impossible for this column to be as complete as it is.

We are the only publication that makes any attempt to cover the entire sport of professional wrestling throughout the world. To do this we ask the continued help of those listed above and additional help from any others who can supply us with information that we might otherwise miss. We ask that all of you send us clippings, programs, and information so that we can continue to make "On And Around The Mat World" as complete as possible and improve the coverage of those areas where it is not. Our address is: The Wrestling News Area Close-Ups, P.O. Box 3325, Mankato, Minnesota 56002.

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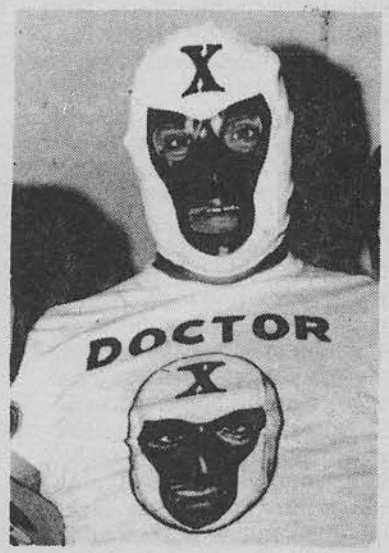

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THE BRITISH WRESTLING NEWS

By Evan R. Treharne

The Sophia Gardens Pavilion, Cardiff is no more, having collapsed under the weight of ice and snow. The Pavilion had been the home of wrestling for more than twenty years. Now Cardiff, the capitol of Wales hasn't a venue large enough to hold wrestling, as the Pavilion held 2,500 fans. Looters quickly stole thousands of pounds of equipment in double quick time.

Likeable Wayne Bridges is making a fool of himself, and his fans by continuing to act the bad man. All his success over the years has been by being himself and good wrestling. Three times on the run he has now been beaten by Pete Roberts, a man 30 lbs. lighter. Roberts at about 15st.31lb. (213 lb.) is a first class heavyweight, and the same poundage as the reigning champion Tony St. Clair.

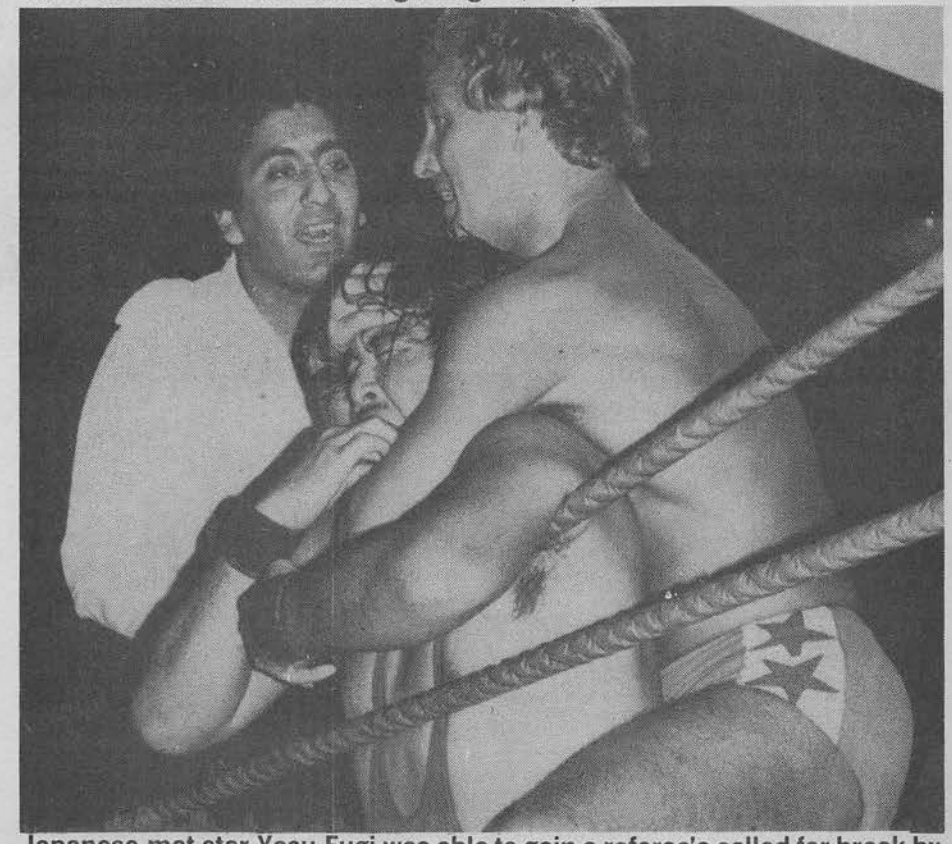
Continual bickering with the referee by Bridges spoils his matches, but Roberts keeps to his usual pattern of defense and attack. Recently when Roberts won by Bridges being disqualified, Bridges continued to rant and rave, and made the silly remark - "Roberts - who are you and who have you ever beaten?" Had Roberts chosen to reply, he would have been in order to say, "You for a start!"

Veteran wrestler Mick McManus, once European Middleweight Champion is still a force to be reckoned with. He was doing quite well against Len Hurst, a man 35 lb. heavier than himself, but got disqualified when the score was equal, with a fall each to their credit.

Another great loss to British wrestling, is the closing down of the famous Belle Vue Stadium, Manchester, the scene of many great wrestling tournaments over many decades. As a finale, the promoters presented many of the great names of yesteryear, in John Lees, Hans Streiger, Jack Pye, Jack Rowlands, Francis St. Clair Gregory, Roy St. Clair, and Jim Hussey.

Irishman, Eddie Hamill, better known as Kung Fu, has wrestled in the U.S.A., Canada and Japan with great success and he has wrestled extensively throughout Great Britain as "The Amazing Kung Fu". At present his eyes are on the World Heavy Middleweight crown, held by Mark Rocco. Although Kung Fu hasn't wrestled Rocco for some time now, they have some years ago wrestled with extreme bitterness in some grand slam battles. Both have won over the other, but never with much to spare.

Mark Rocco found out that even a corner and the ropes didn't offer any safety when he battled "The Amazing Kung Fu," Eddie Hamill.



Japanese mat star Yasu Fugi was able to gain a referee's called for break by getting to the ropes when British Heavyweight Champion Tony St. Clair trapped him in a sleeper hold.

Johnny Kincaid used brute force, mainly wicked elbow thrusts to pound the bearded Rasputin into submission.

Kendo Nagasaki, the terror of all the British heavyweights, or for that matter, any heavyweight this side of the Atlantic, continues his winning ways. Both Kendo and his manager Gorgeous George, are keen to discover a young man with some experience in combat sports, who would be interested in being trained by them in professional wrestling. Such a young man should be between 16 years and 23 years with the required toughness to undergo such extensive training. When making the grade, the young man would then be able to become the tag-partner to the great Kendo Nagasaki himself.

Masked wrestler Kendo Nagasaki and his manager Gorgeous George are seeking a young man to train as their tag team partner.

Wrestling Enterprises of Birkenhead, presents five bouts on their tournaments with such quality wrestlers, any of them are suitable as top of the bill. Reports are wrestling fans are delighted, and look forward to each and every chance to attend tournaments in various parts of the country. It seems British fans travel far greater distances than ever to follow their wrestling heroes.

Tony St. Clair, the British champion won over heavyweight champion claimant John Quinn by 2 falls to 1 in a non-title bout. His supporters were delighted with this win, and of course want him to press for a title bout.

John Quinn won by a knock out over Johnny Kincaid in a really great battle. However, The Might Quinn has battles outside the ring too. Recently a young man threw the contents of a bucket of water over Quinn during which time the father of the youth came behind Quinn and struck him over the head with a chair. Stewards quickly separated the father and son from John Quinn to prevent any further trouble. What man in his senses would attack such a 20st. wrestler? Perhaps he is tired of living. Outside the ring Quinn is indeed a 'Gentle Giant'.

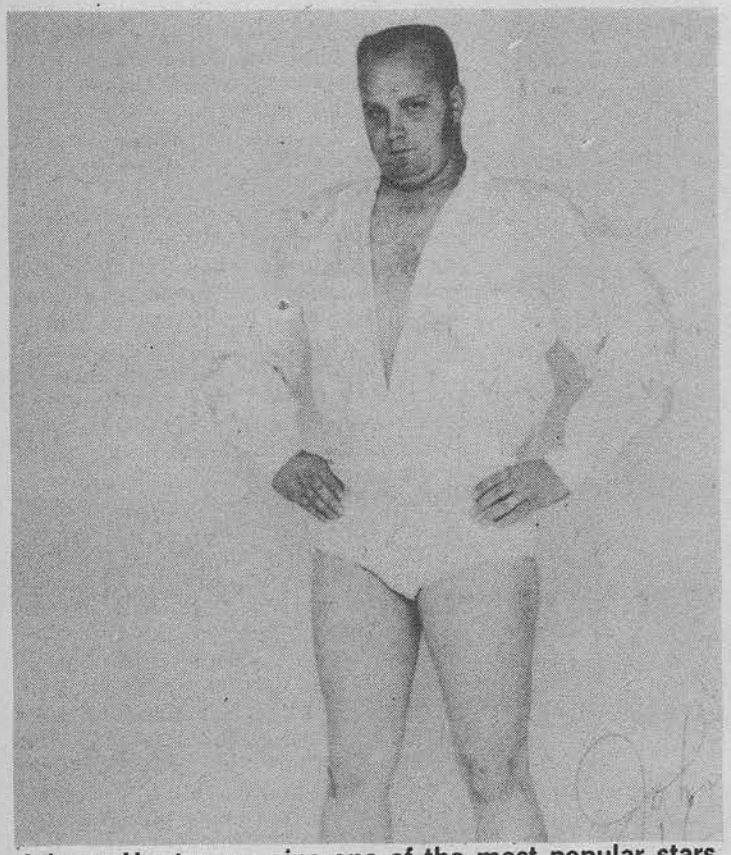
Roy St. Clair, brother to Tony St. Clair retired to keep a public house some years ago. However, at "THE WELCOME INN" wrestling fans were welcomed, and we spent a great night with the former wrestler and his dad, Francis St. Clair Gregory. Greg was himself a more than useful wrestler in the old days and wrestled Bulldog Bill Garnon on many occassions. Such a great time was had by one and all, we hope to get the chance to be able to do so again in the not too distant future. This is the type of thing that makes wrestling truly great.

Marty Jones, the British Light-Heavy Champion, failed in his title bid against the World Heavy-Middleweight title holder, Mark Rocco, despite a really great try. To my mind reducing to the required poundage must have robbed him of some strength and stamina. Now Marty is interested to try taking the Mid-Heavyweight Title, left vacant by the death of Mike Marino. The outcome of this title is very interesting, as there are such a lot of good men at that weight.

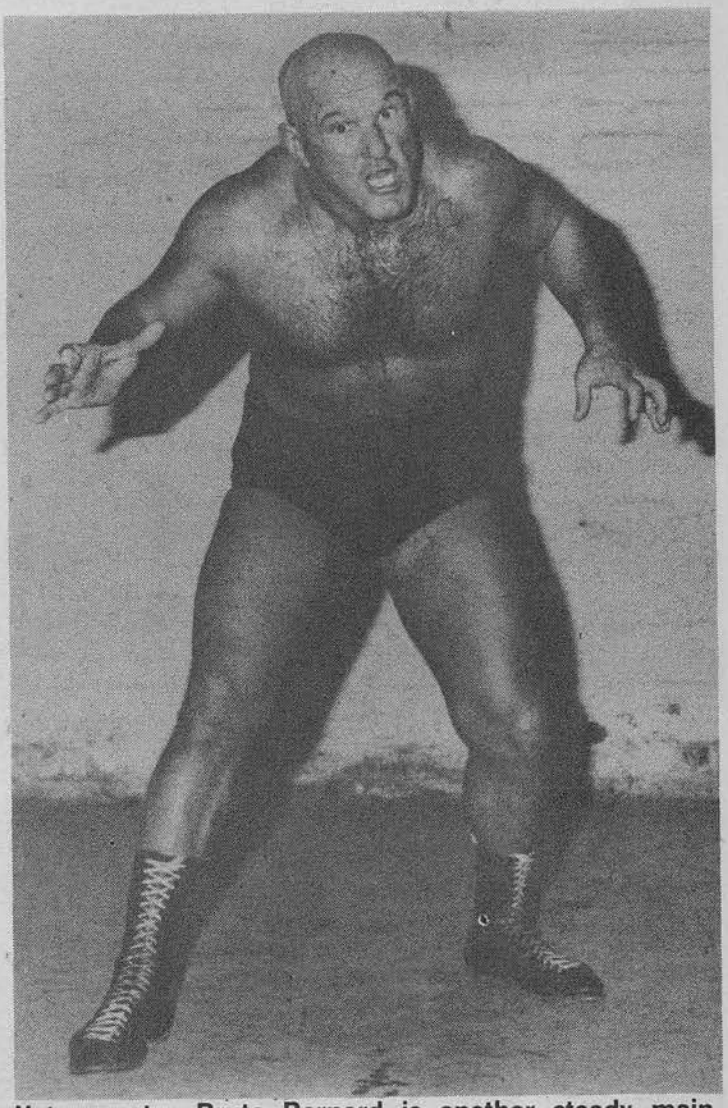
The "Dynamite Kid" had an all action fight against Mark Rocco for the latter's World Heavy-Middle Title but he just couldn't make it. This was the second time these men met in combat and as the first a great all action bout that pleased their supporters.

STARS OF THE EASTERN WRESTLING ASSOC.

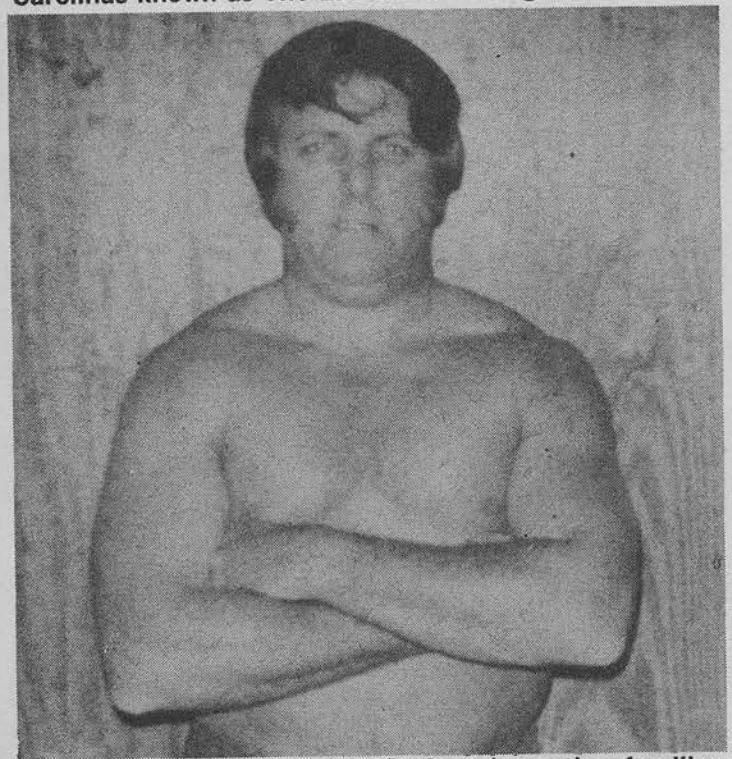
By James C. Melby



Johnny Hunter remains one of the most popular stars wrestling for the independent organization based in the Carolinas known as The Eastern Wrestling Association.

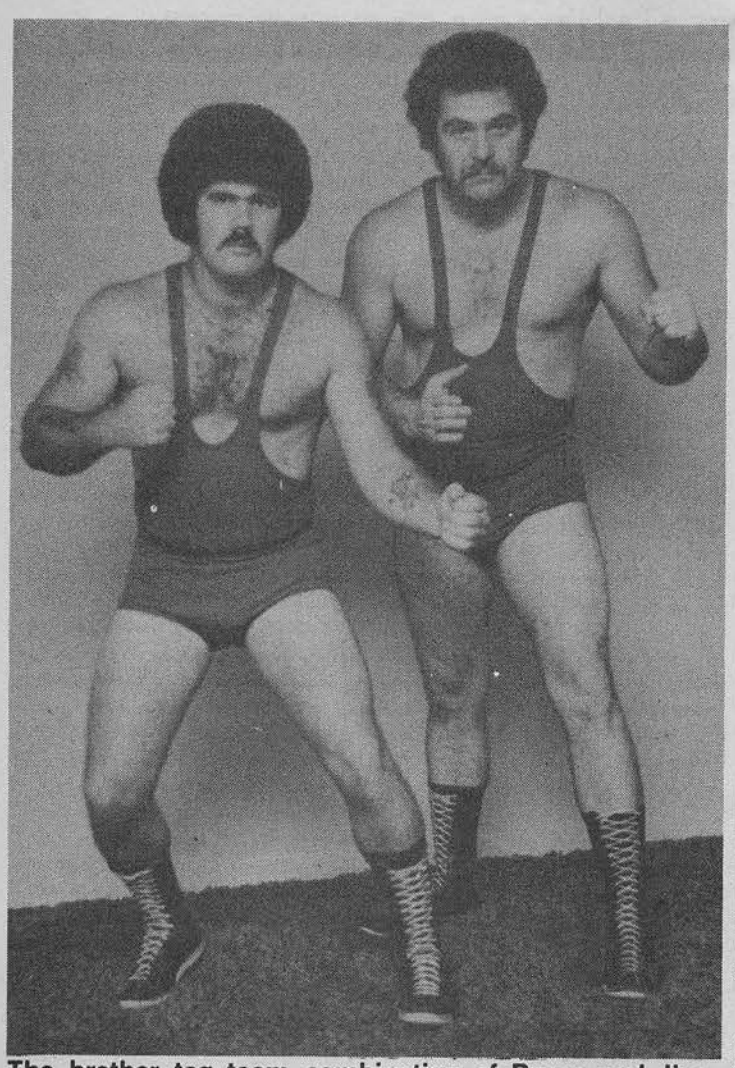


Veteran star Brute Bernard is another steady main eventer, but not as popular as Hunter, due to his rowdy ring tactics.

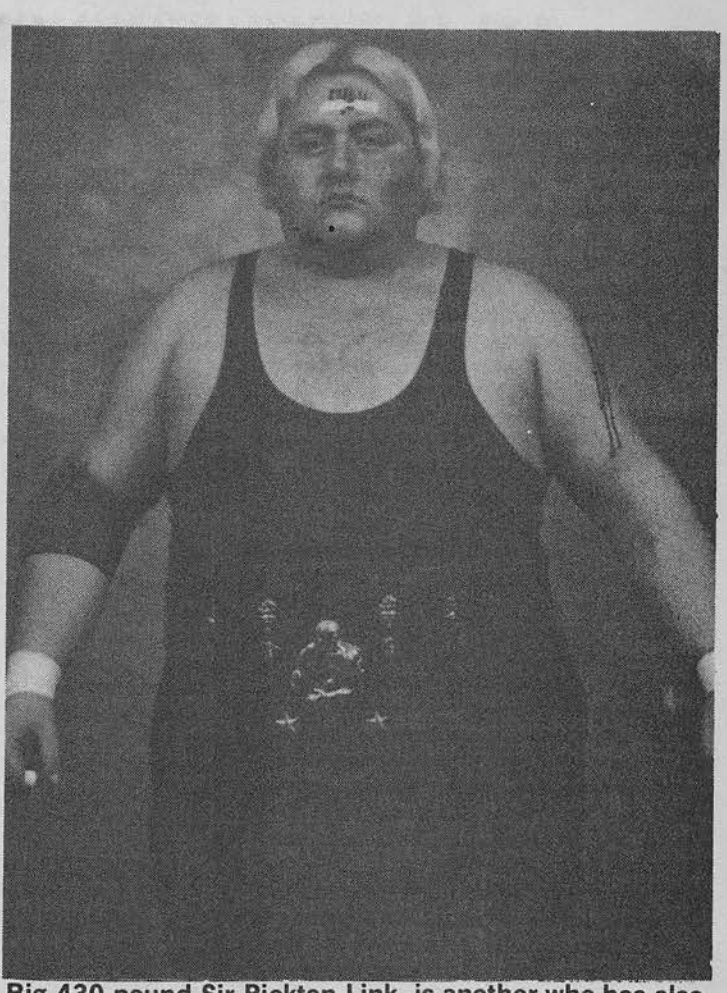


Statesboro, Georgia's Bobby Graham is another familiar face on their cards.

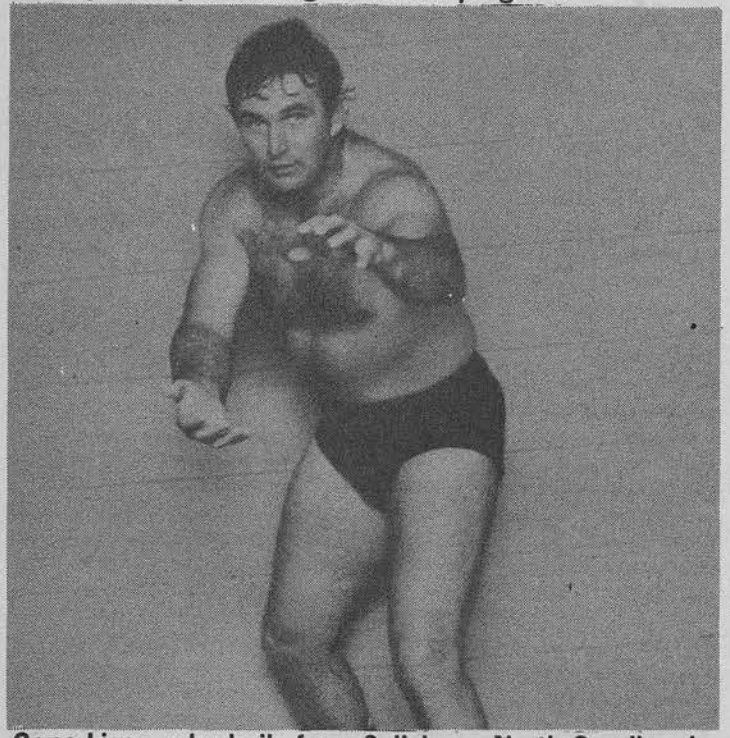
Lady wrestler Belle Starr is one of the top attractions also for this promotion.



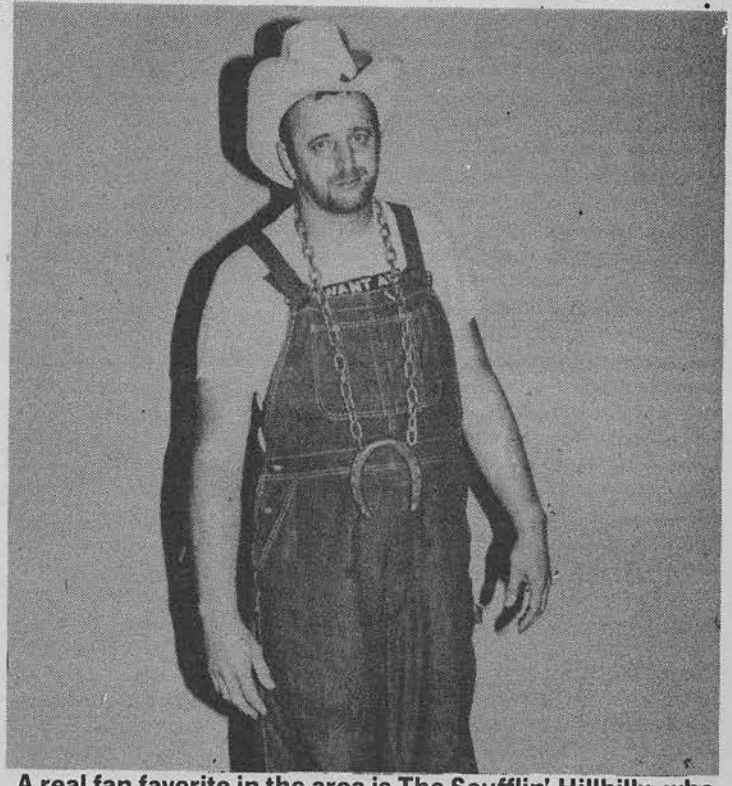
The brother tag team combination of Bruce and Jim Gallagher can often also been seen on the Georgia Championship Wrestling cable T.V. program.



Big 430 pound Sir Rickton Link, is another who has also wrestled on cable bouts originating from Atlanta.



Gene Ligon, who hails from Salisbury, North Carolina, is another regular competitor on E.W.A. cards.



A real fan favorite in the area is The Scufflin' Hillbilly, who wrestles out of Logan, West Virginia.

AN INTERVIEW WITH RICKY ROMERO

By Shawn Swagler

WM: How long have you been wrestling?

RR: Twelve years.

WM: Where all have you wrestled?

WM: You name it. From all the way from Japan to Alaska to New York, all the way to Puerto Rico, all the way to Mexico, my country.

WM: What titles have you held?

RR: I still hold two of them, the Rocky Mountain and the Western States.

WM: Who have been your toughest opponents?

RR: I really consider one of my toughest opponents was probably Dory Funk Jr.

WM: What can you tell us about the start of your career up until now?

RR: It's not much to say. All I can say I'm climbing that ladder. It's a hard ladder to climb.

WM: Did anyone help you in starting your career?

RR: Actually, I learned in Mexico City with Professor Romero.

WM: Who have been your favorite tag team partners?

RR: Jay Youngblood and Rick Youngblood.

WM: Who do you think are the top wrestlers in the world today?

RR: Oh, I would say one of them was Jay Youngblood. And Rick Steamboat.

WM: What are some of your hobbies?

RR: I enjoy racing. I also like football and baseball.

WM: What are some of your goals in professional wrestling?

RR: To keep producing. To be in that ring, if I ever get a title match with the World's Champion all I can say I'll do my best and I won't give the people a 100%. I'll give them a 150% and try and get his belt away.

WM: Where do you live right now?

RR: I'm making my home in Amarillo, Texas.

What brings you to the Midwest?

RR: Well, they say they have a lot of tough wrestlers here. I like to go where all the tough wrestlers are.

WM: What do you think of the traveling?

RR: Well, It's something different. Everybody's got to travel. If you want to make money you have to move. You have got to go where the money's at.

WM: What do you think of the fans?

RR: I think they're beautiful because like tonight it's snowing outside and they are here. They're here to see the wrestling and I feel that I went in that ring and I gave them a 150%. I love them.

WM: What injuries have you had in the ring?

RR: Well, would you believe I had a broken neck at one time with a second vertebrae and I was in the hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They told me I was never going to wrestle again, but here I am.

WM: Do you have any close friends in professional wrestling?

RR: Yes, I do. I have a lot of them. I've got Jay Youngblood and Rick Youngblood. They're very close friends of mine. We work out together. I helped them a lot.

WM: What was your toughest match?

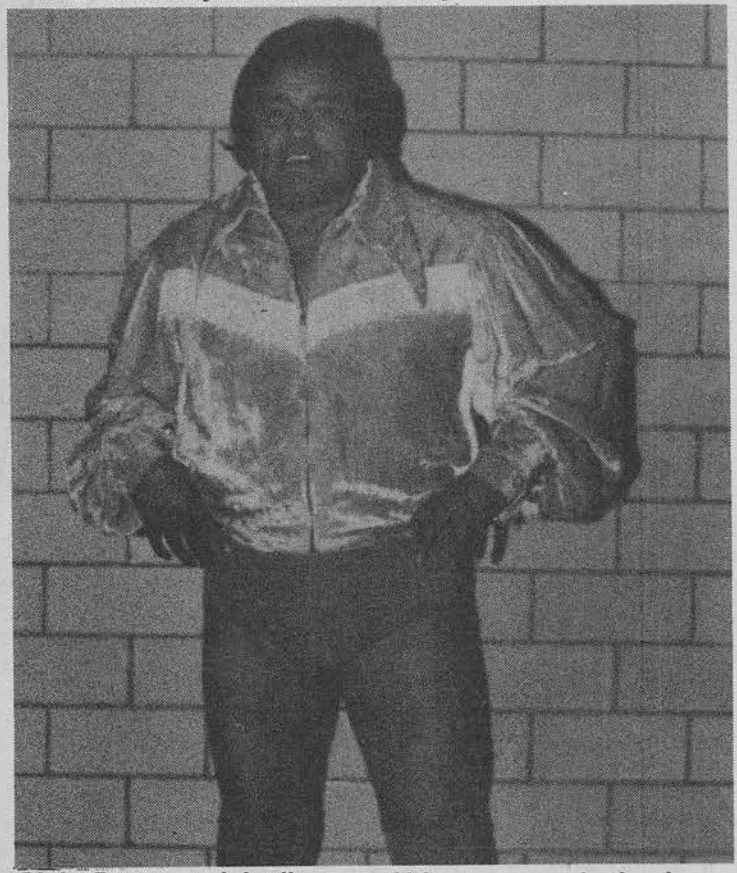
RR: My toughest match, when I held Dory Jr. to a ninety minute draw for the N.W.A. title.

WM: What was your greatest match?

RR: The same one.

WM: Thank you very much for this interview.

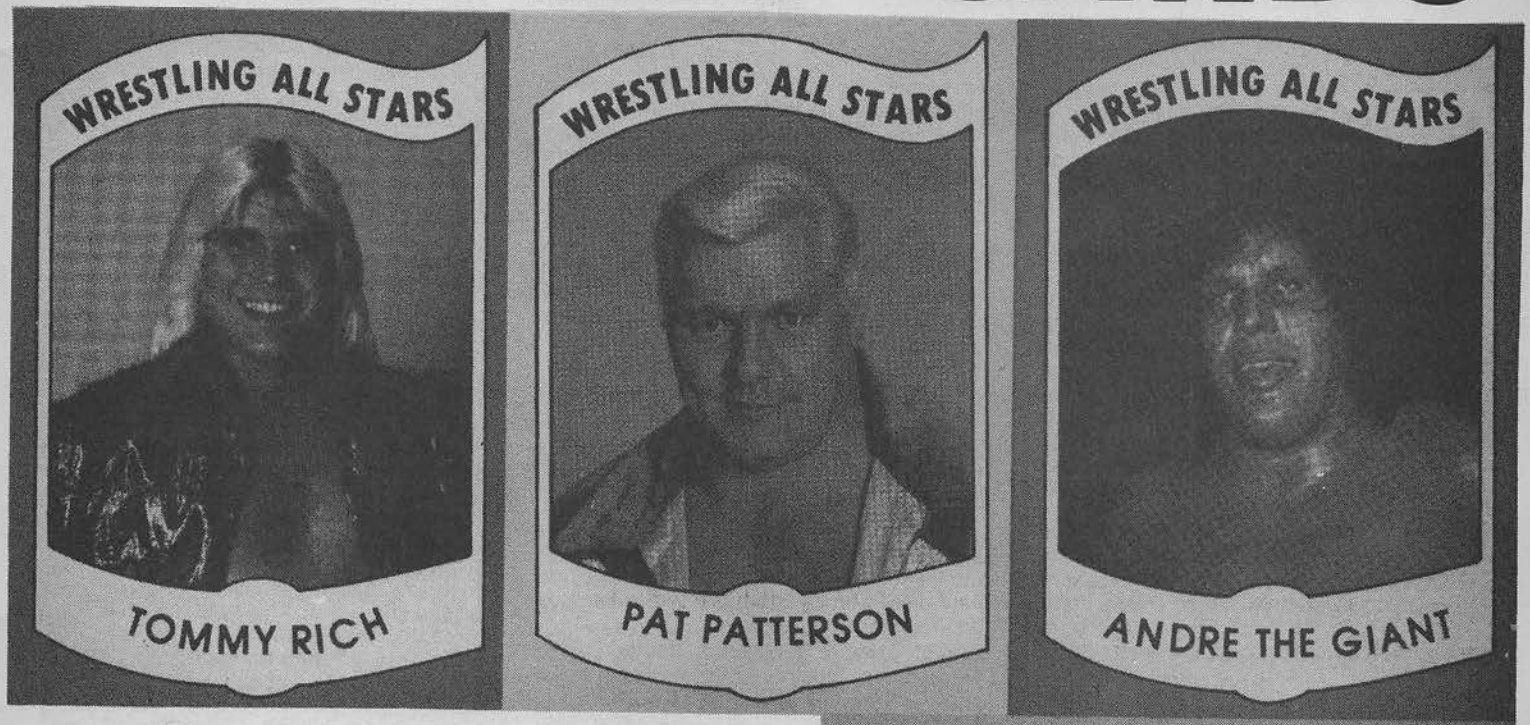
RR: Thank you.



Ricky Romero originally started his pro career in the rings of Mexico.

Romero used an over-the-top wristlock to gain an advantage over rough and tough Gene Lewis.

WRESTLING TRADING CARDS



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Wrestling Magazine Swap 'N Sell

The purpose of this section of The Wrestling News is to provide a market place for collectors of wrestling material. These advertisements are provided to our subscribers at no charge. Anyone who is interested in placing an advertisement should send us a S.A.S.E. and we will be happy to send you an application.

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In short, we provide this free service at no charge to anyone, and we make no guarantees for any individuals listed here so you are dealing with them completely at your own risk.

WANT ADS

Scott Glicker, P.O. Box 17255, Plantation, Florida 33318 would like to buy a copy of the wrestling program that is sold at wrestling matches in Atlanta, Georgia. He says he will also pay postage.

Carmine DeSpirito, 980 Lorraine Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083 wants to buy 8mm or Super 8 home films of wrestlers from the W.W.F. or N.W.A. Also early footage of W.W.F. wrestling from the 50's to early 70's.

David Kisor, Route 3, Box 44-A, Pontotoc, Mississippi 38863 would like to buy Jerry "The King" Lawler's 45 R.P.M. records. He doesn't want to buy "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do." He also wants to buy a Bill "Superstar" Dundee t-shirt and a copy of The Wrestling News #63 with Dundee's picture on the cover. (July 1980 issue)

Peter Farry, 68 George Street, Doncaster East, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3109 wishes to buy video tapes (Betacord) of wrestling bouts of the W.W.F. and particularly Madison Square Garden promotions. He is also interested in N.W.A. promotions. He asks that you send him a list of what you have available, and prices.

FOR SALE

Scott Holmes, 9601 Kingston Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71118 has a list of official programs and covers of wrestling magazines that he is selling. He has agreed to provide you with a complete price list in return for a self addressed stamped envelope.

Tena Puckett, 5878 - 110th Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32244 makes bumper stickers and pencils with wrestlers names and sayings on them. She has agreed to provide you with a complete list of the items she has for sale in return for a self addressed stamped envelope.

PHOTOS FOR SALE

Gene Gordon, 413 North Deal Avenue, Newton, North Carolina 28658, has three lists of wrestling photos he is selling: girls, men, and midgets. For each list send two 20¢ stamps. Mr. Gordon recently had hip surgery and has notified us that it will be several months before he is again able to answer his mail but promises that he will eventually answer all.

John Lawson, 618 South Center Street, Terre Haute, Indiana 47807 has both color and black & white photos for sale. For his list send him a self addressed stamped envelope.

Dale Pierce, Box 23241, Phoenix, Arizona 85063, has wrestling photos of Western States Wrestling Alliance grapplers. Send him a self addressed stamped envelope for complete details.

Laura J. Zoffka, 93 Rexford Drive, Newport News, Virginia 23602, has photos of Mid Atlantic stars for sale. For complete details send a self addressed envelope with two 20¢ stamps on it to her.

Gene Gordon, 413 North Deal Avenue, Newton, North Carolina 28658, has three lists of wrestling photos he is selling: girls, men, and midgets. For each list send two 20¢ stamps.

Joe and Ron Cunliffe Sr., P.O. Box 265, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19050, request that people interested in obtaining a copy of their list send a self addressed letter size envelope and $1.00.

Evan R. Treharne, Ringsport (R), 5 Stockland Street, Caerphilly, Mid-Glam CF8 1GD, Great Britain, has photosets of strong women and lady wrestlers for sale. Details can be found in the magazine he publishes - Ringsport - which is now in it's 23rd year. We recently received the 200th issue - 16 pages on heavy glossy paper. If you are interested in becoming a subscriber to Ringsport the cost is $10.00 for an annual subscription. Evan accepts dollar bills only from U.S. subscribers to avoid heavy bank charges. The cost for British subscribers is L5.00.

PEN PALS

Leonard J. Orner, 544 Darby Road, Ridley Park, Pennsylvania 19078 would like to correspond with others who are interested in professional wrestling.

Tony Morais, 4512 Chestnut Street, Bethesda, Maryland 20814 would like to find pen pals who are also interested in the sport of professional wrestling.

Shukriyyah Wangara, 402 Hilo Drive#F, Charlotte, North Carolina 28213 is interested in finding pen pals and also in trading wrestling material.

FOR TRADE

Mituru Uehira, P.O. Box 49, Nerima, Tokyo 176-91, Japan would like to trade video tapes of wrestling in Japan for some of male and female wrestling bouts held in America. He can also send you a list of tapes he has for sell and prices (including postage) for them.

Shinji Kikuchi, Hiromachi 2-1-19 AP 40803, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan would like to trade video tapes of wrestling (Beta Max format) with fans in Georgia, Texas, Kansas, and Oregon.

Neil Stein, 28126 Peacock Ridge #209, Palos Verdes, California 90274 would like to trade VHS format video tapes with other fans of professional wrestling.

Lawrence J. James, 2706 East 63rd Street, Brooklyn, New York 11234 would like to trade programs, photos, and other professional wrestling material from any area. He promises to answer all.

Suzanne Mari, 825 - 15th Street, Union City, New Jersey 07087 would like to trade color pictures of Rick Martel with fans from Nova Scotia, Quebec City, Auckland, Australia and around the world. Also W.W.F. results from those of other areas.

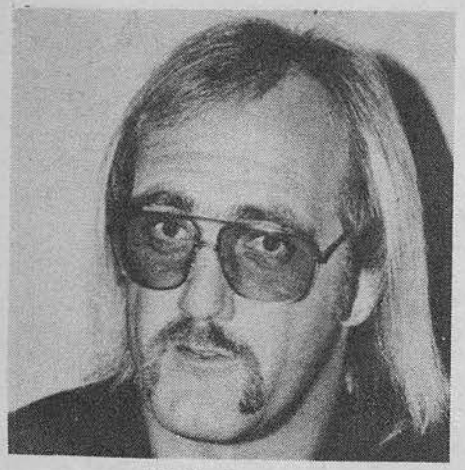
Joe Abbott, 936 Northwest 1st, Moore, Oklahoma 73160 would like to trade results from Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas, and Missouri for results from Florida, Texas, Mid-Atlantic, Pittsburgh, and Mid South areas - also clippings.

FAN CLUBS

Donna Crawford, P.O. Box 363, Pleasant Valley, Virginia 22848 sent me a bulletin for the Ric Flair fan club she runs. two color photos of Ric, and a copy of a permission slip from him to run the club. She charges $10 per year for membership and in return for that she promises to send those who join a 5x7 autographed color photo and a letter from Ric welcoming them to the club and four bulletins during the year. Also a membership card and information on other material for sale. The bulletin we received on 5/10/82 was labeled #7 and it consisted of nine 8½ by 11 sheets printed on both sides. Included are many results, listings and clippings and other information and features on Ric Flair.

In our last column we reported on the clubs run by Michael O'Hara, P.O. Box 651 - Gracie Station, New York, N.Y. 10028. He has sent along two new bulletins which we received on 4/25/82. As before, the bulletins consist of legal size sheets made on a copier and folded in half to form pages. The clubs he sent bulletins for are:

Bulldog Brower Fan Club, for which he charges $5.00 per year and in return promises to send a membership card, profile sheet, four color photos, Brower poster, and three bulletins. The last bulletin Mr. O'Hara sent us for this club was #7. This one was labeled #10 and it contained four of the above described sheets. In it he includes a lot of clippings and news on Mr. Brower, including quite a bit of news from the past on the star.



Hulk Hogan

Hulk Hogan Fan Club, for which he charges $5.00 per year and in return promised to send a membership certificate, four color photos, a profile sheet, and interesting club bulletins. He still hasn't told us how many bulletins he promises per year, but the last one reached us on 4/16/82 and was labeled #4 and this one reached us on 4/25/82 and was labeled #6. This issue also included four of the above described sheets with results and a lot of clippings from Hogan's recent appearances.

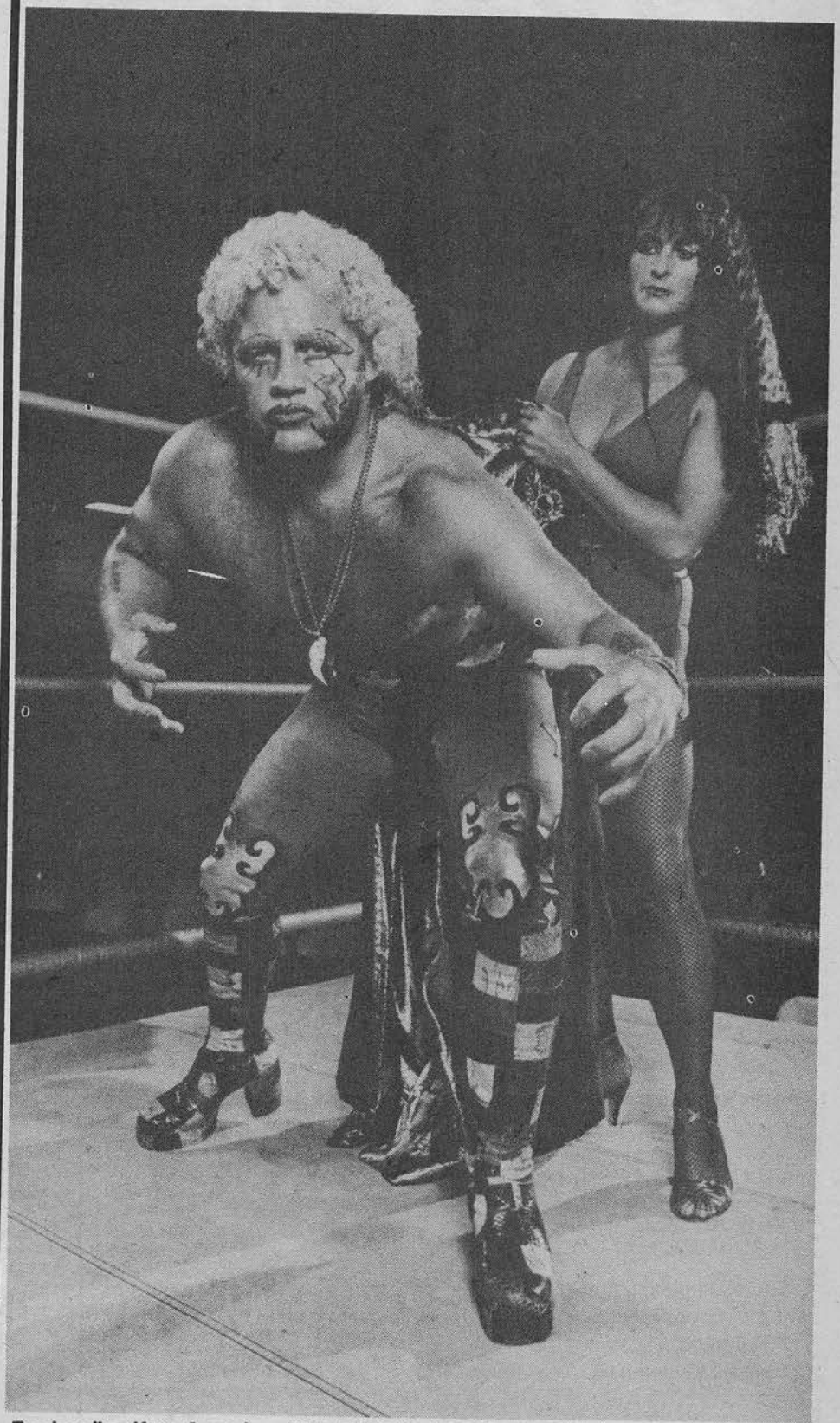
Gail Duncan, Route 1, Box 497-A, Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030 sent me a bulletin #1 for her Ricky Steamboat Fan Club, a color picture of Ricky, and a copy of a signed permission slip from him to have the club. She charges $8.00 per year for membership and promises four bulletins per year. The first issue contained eight 8½" by 11" pages with printing on both sides. She also sells single issue of the bulletin for $2 each.

Barbi Baker, 319 North Negley Avenue - #4-D, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206 sent us the April 1982 issue of her newsletter called The Wrestling Wire. As we reported in our last issue, we have already received the January, February, and March issues. This again was 8# by 5# bulletin. There were 27 pages in this issue with many results listings and some clippings and pictures as well. Prices she charged are $1.50 for a single issue, $4.25 for three issues, $7.00 for five issues, or $9.75 or seven issues. She promises a new issue each month.

Karen Beckman, 2924 North 44th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210 heads up the AWA Wrestling Results Club. She charges $5.00 per year dues ($6.50 for Canadian residents) and promises to send in return a membership card and an average of four bulletins per year. The bulletins contain results, profiles, interviews, and details on wrestling throughout the A.W.A. We received a bulletin that was labeled #25 on 5/3/82. This issue contained eleven 8½ by 11 sheets ditto printed on one side.

During the past month, Daniel Billings, R.F.D. #1 Millay Road, Bowdoinham, Maine 04008 sent us two different issues of his Wrestling Writes bulletin. He told us he publishes it every three weeks (a total of seventeen issues per year) and charges 75¢ for a single issue, $3.50 for five issues, or $10.00 for fifteen issues. The issues we received were made up of legal size pages printed on both sides and contained results, reports, features, and a lot of information on professional wrestling in Maine. Issue #14 had four pages while issue #15 had three.

THE EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET



England's gift to America, THE EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET - current Americas' Heavyweight Wrestling Champion pictured here with Ms. Linda. Adrian had a featured part in the hit film "Quest For Fire," and was recently seen on T.V. show "Two On The Town," in the Los Angeles area.

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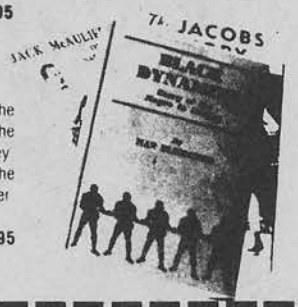

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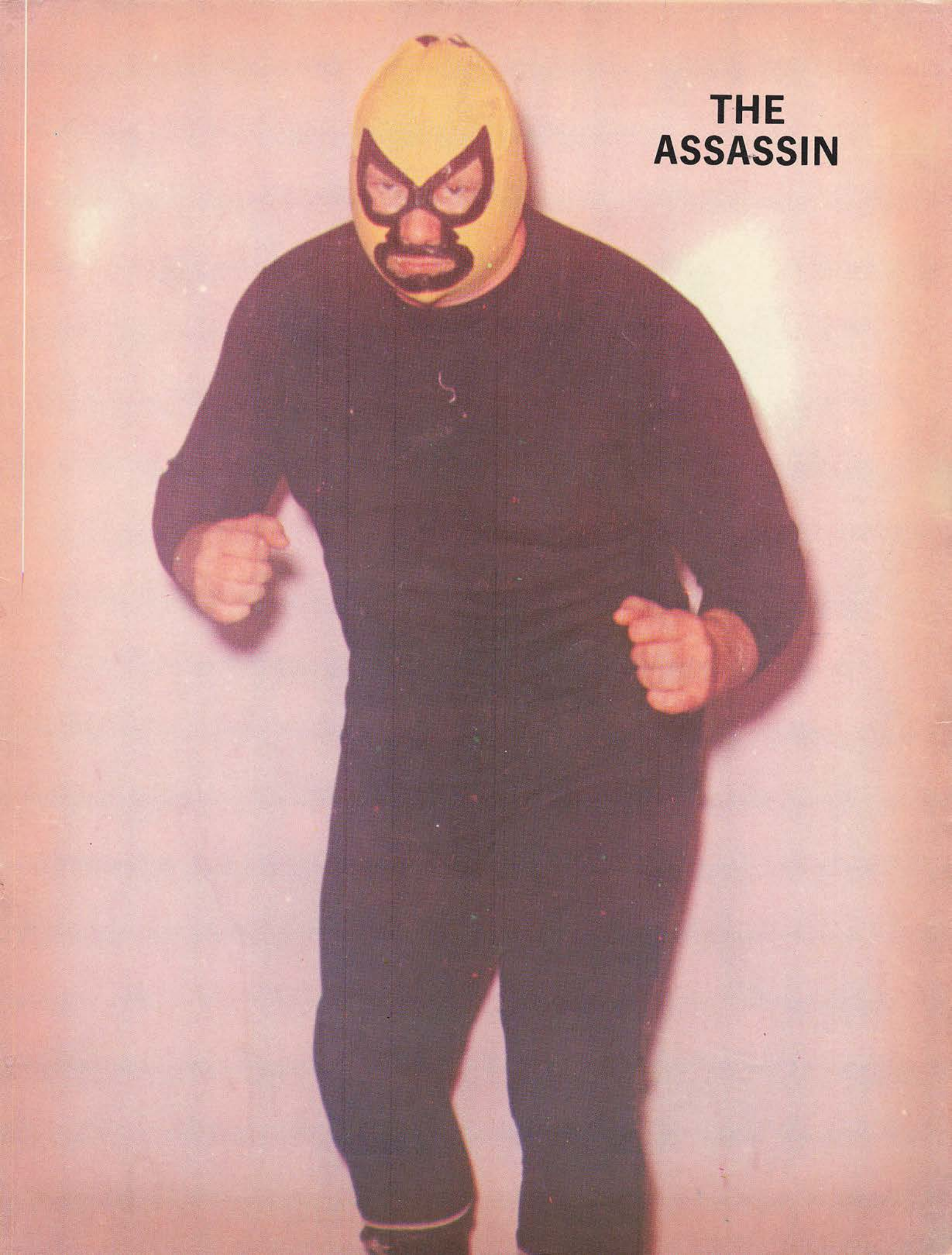
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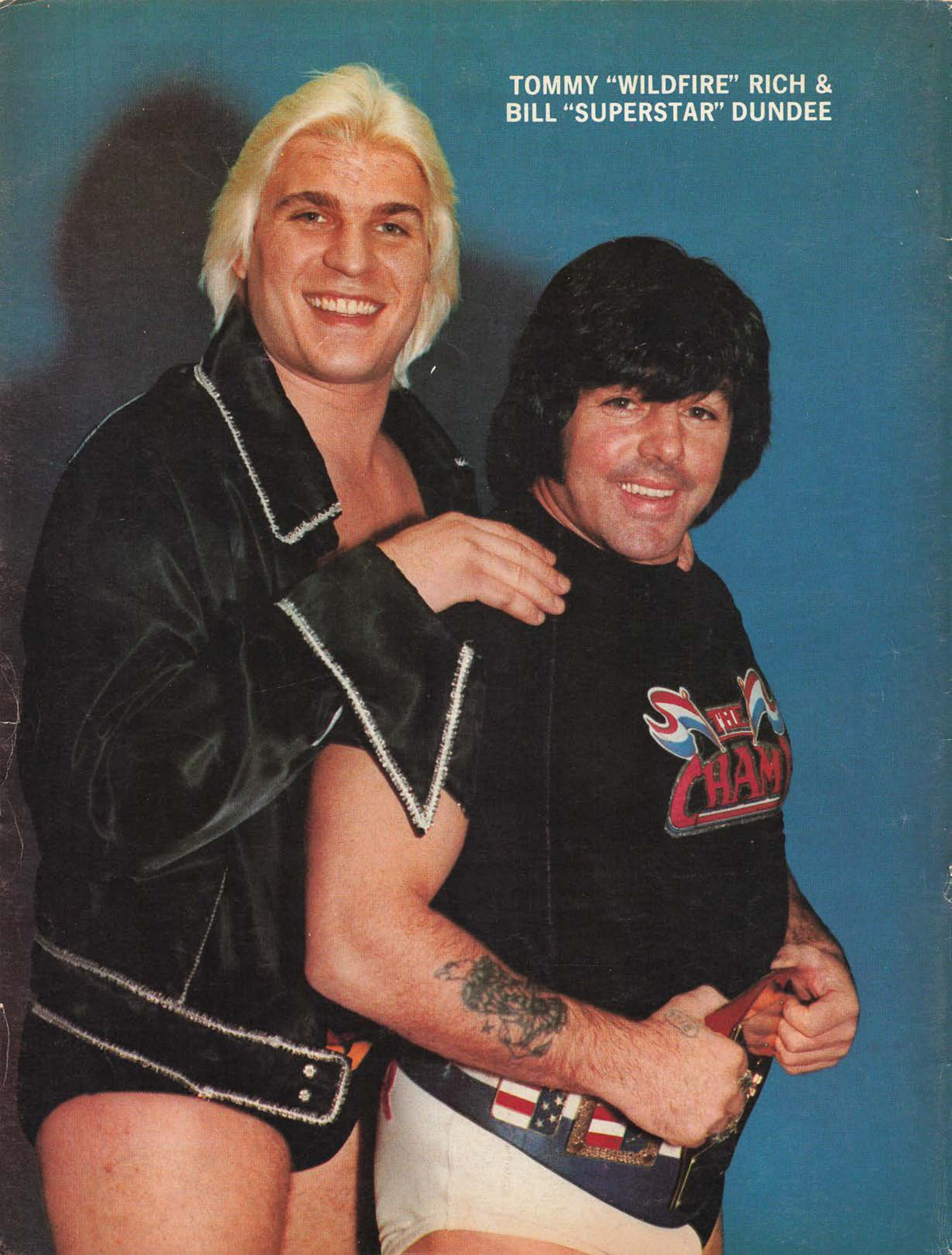
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